FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

BIS-EAS-93-022
hursday
February 1993

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-022 CONTENTS *4 February 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S., EC Said Seeking Safeguards for PRC To Join GATT *[KYODO]* 1

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Bank of Japan Cuts Discount Rate 4 Feb 2
  Targets 'Enfeebled Economy' *[KYODO]* 2
  Miyazawa: 'Comprehensive Judgment' *[KYODO]* 2
  MITI Chief Welcomes 'Drastic' Cut *[KYODO]* 3
  Business Seeks More *[KYODO]* 3
G-7 Undecided on Yeltsin Summit Invitation *[KYODO]* 3
Tokyo Studies Tariffication Alternatives *[Tokyo TV]* 3
Kono 'Worried' by U.S. Congress Imports Moves *[KYODO]* 4
Tokyo Reacts to U.S. Airlines Dispute *[KYODO]* 4
Tokyo, EC Open Auto Trade Conference *[KYODO]* 4
Philippine Foreign Secretary Urges More Aid *[KYODO]* 5
Lack of Philippine 'Comfort Women' Data Hinders Study *[KYODO]* 5
Watanabe: Troops To Stay in Cambodia *[KYODO]* 5
Miyazawa Views UN Peace Enforcement Plan *[KYODO]* 6
LDP: Constitution Permits UN Role for SDF *[KYODO]* 6
Muto Views Income Tax Cuts as Possible Option *[KYODO]* 7
  Effort To 'Help Buoy' Economy *[KYODO]* 7
Hayashi Says No to Plan To Cut Income Taxes *[KYODO]* 8
Mitsuzuka Urges Wage Hike To Boost Economy *[KYODO]* 8
Justice Ministry Studies Auditing Law Revision *[KYODO]* 8
Ministry To Promote Mechanization of Farming *[KYODO]* 9

North Korea

Vice Premier Meets PRC Cultural Delegation *[KCNA]* 9
Belarusian Party, WPK Issue Joint Statement *[KCNA]* 9
Thai Prime Minister Meets WPK Delegation 25 Jan *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10
Radio Alleges U.S., ROK Aerial Espionage Activity *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10
KCNA Reviews 2 Feb Pyongyang Press 11
  KCNA on 3 Feb Press 11
NODONG SINMUN Comments on Events, Issues 12
  Stresses Self-Reliance, Struggle *[KCNA]* 12
  'Watch the Warmongers' *[Pyongyang Radio]* 13
  Kim Chong-il's Comments on Film *[KCNA]* 15
  Anniversary of Kim Chong-il Economic Work *[KCNA]* 16
  Rejects Japan's 'New International Order' *[KCNA]* 16
  Hails 'Politics of Benevolence' *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17

South Korea

North Asks Trading Companies for Crude Oil *[CHUNGANG ILBO 3 Feb]* 18
DPRK Proposes Building Telecom Center for Tumen Project *[YONHAP]* 18
Ministry Doubts Kunadze Visit Sparked DPRK-Russia Thaw *[YONHAP]* 18

Foreign Ministry Institute Views North-South Relations *[YONHAP]* 19
ICAO Investigators Arrive To Probe KAL Downing *[YONHAP]* 19
Russia To Cooperate in Agricultural Technology *[YONHAP]* 19
Japan To Join 44 Science, Technology Projects *[YONHAP]* 19
No Tae-u Expects Change in 'Strained Relations' With North *[YONHAP]* 20
Official Says DPRK's Kim Yong-sun Replaced *[Seoul Radio]* 20
Role in UN's Somalia Effort Seen as Obligation *[THE KOREA TIMES 31 Jan]* 20
CHOSON ILBO Opens Beijing Branch 3 Feb *[CHOSON ILBO 4 Feb]* 20
Party Floor Leaders Agree on Assembly Special Sessions *[THE KOREA TIMES 4 Feb]* 21
No Thanks National Assembly for Cooperation *[YONHAP]* 21
Chong Chu-yong Plans To Continue Political Career *[YONHAP]* 21
Democratic Party To 'Write in' Leaders in March Convention *[THE KOREA TIMES 3 Feb]* 22
Editorial Praises Clinton's North Korea Policy *[SEOUL SINMUN 3 Feb]* 22
Communications Ministry Says U.S. To Urge Opening Market *[YONHAP]* 23
Ground Broken for Satellite Telecommunications Site *[THE KOREA HERALD 4 Feb]* 23
Gross Foreign Debt Posts $2.59 Billion Increase *[YONHAP]* 24
SRV Foreign Minister, Trade Minister Hold Talks *[YONHAP]* 24
India Places Antidumping Tariff on ROK's PVC *[YONHAP]* 24
Government To Discourage Overseas Borrowing *[YONHAP]* 24
Finance Ministry Studies Options To Attract Foreign Investors *[YONHAP]* 25
Foreign Investors Increase Stock Purchases *[YONHAP]* 25
Customs Revisions To Combat Intellectual Property Violations *[THE KOREA TIMES 2 Feb]* 25
Government Sets Aside $1 Billion for 'Official Use' Exports *[YONHAP]* 26
Exports to Taiwan Up 31.7 Percent *[YONHAP]* 27
Trade Ministry Reports Decrease in Exports *[YONHAP]* 27
Ministry Targets Increased Construction Volume Abroad *[YONHAP]* 27
Reportage on Kim Yong-sam Transition Planning 27
    To Require Cabinet Financial Disclosures *[YONHAP]* 27
    Seeks Kwangju Reconciliation *[YONHAP]* 28
    To Speed Government Reorganization *[YONHAP]* 28
    Meets Swedish Defense Minister, German Envoy *[YONHAP]* 28
PRC Threatening To Overtake Domestic Shipbuilding *[YONHAP]* 29
ROK Buys 3.2 Tons of North Korean Gold in 1992 *[YONHAP]* 29
Government Allows Holiday Import of DPRK Walnuts *[CHOSON ILBO 4 Feb]* 29
Board Permits Import of DPRK Ginseng, Tobacco *[YONHAP]* 30
Inter-Korean Commodity Shipment at 'Standstill' *[YONHAP]* 30
Cheju Island Asks Ministry To Intervene Against PRC Fishings *[YONHAP]* 30

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

PRC's Qian Qichen Meets With U Ohn Gyaw *[Rangoon Radio]* 31
    Ends Goodwill Visit, Departs *[Rangoon Radio]* 31
Delegates Hold 2d Day of Panel Discussion *[Rangoon TV]* 31

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Clinton Urged To Pay Attention to GATT *[BERNAMA]* 32
Defense Minister Comments on Deployments to Cambodia, Somalia *[BERNAMA]* 33
Rulers' Allegations of Humiliation Rejected *[BERITA HARIAN 30 Jan]* 33
Drive To Scrap Royal Immunity Said Successful *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 2 Feb]* 34

Cambodia

General Urges KR Ouster From UN Commission *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 34
Railway Track, Battambang Bridges Blown Up *[AFP]* 35
Khmer Rouge Army Assesses Current Fighting *[Radio VGNUFC]* 36
Hun Sen Vows Troops Not To Attack KR Base *[KYODO]* 37

Son Sann: Sihanouk Should Settle Fighting *[AFP]* 38
Hun Sen Receives Japanese Cultural Mission *[SPK]* 38

Indonesia

Military Chief: Troops To Remain in Cambodia *[ANTARA]* 38
Energy Minister Ginanjar Discusses Oil Excess *[ANTARA]* 38
Outcome of Human Rights Workshop Reviewed *[ANTARA]* 39

Philippines

Officials Fear 'Row' With U.S. Over VOA *[BUSINESS WORLD 4 Feb]* 40
NUC Adviser Opposes Talks With Exiled Rebels *[BUSINESS WORLD 4 Feb]* 40
Editorial Views Protest of Panel Authority *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 3 Feb]* 41
Rejection of Power Rate Increase Seen Threatening Foreign Loans *[MANILA BULLETIN 4 Feb]* 42
World Bank Credited With Easing Energy Problem *[MALAYA 2 Feb]* 42
Domestic Debt Increases by 55% *[MANILA BULLETIN 3 Feb]* 43
Ramos Favors 'Involuntary' Police Separations *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 2 Feb]* 44
3 Consulates, 12 Embassies To Close *[Manila Radio]* 44

Thailand

Cambodian Buffer Zone Proposal Causes 'Concern' *[THE NATION 4 Feb]* 45
UN Urged To Concede Failure in Cambodia *[THE NATION 4 Feb]* 45
Editorial: UN Fails To Bring Peace to Cambodia *[MATICHON 4 Feb]* 46
Cabinet Approves Humanitarian Aid for Iraq *[Bangkok Radio]* 46
'Severe Punishment' for IPR Violations Considered *[Bangkok TV]* 47
    Minister Promises Action *[BANGKOK POST 4 Feb]* 47
Kaset Rotchananin's Political Future Viewed *[BANGKOK POST 4 Feb]* 47
Preview of Talks With Burma on Gas Pipeline *[THE NATION 3 Feb]* 48
Cooperation on Mekong River Development Viewed *[BANGKOK POST 4 Feb]* 48
Article Views Tasks Facing Finance Minister *[THE NATION 3 Feb]* 50

Vietnam

Foreign Ministry Rejects U.S. Human Rights 'Allegations' *[Hanoi International]* 51
PRC Border Talks To Resume 14 Feb *[AFP]* 51
Further on NHAN DAN Interview With Do Muoi *[Hanoi Radio]* 51
Publisher Releases Anniversary Collection of Party Works *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
Party Departments Discuss Implementing Resolutions *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
Spokeswoman Hails Thai Mekong Development Plan *[Bangkok THE NATION 3 Feb]* 53
'Heated Debates' on Foreign Investment at Government Session *[VNA]* 54
Symposiums Explore Financial System Alternatives *[VNA]* 54
Vo Van Kiet Receives ROK Businessmen *[VNA]* 54
Joint-Venture Commercial Bank With ROK Opens *[VNA]* 54
Nguyen Manh Cam To Sign ROK Trade Pacts *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
Cooperation With Singapore, Malaysia Strengthened *[Hanoi International]* 55
Phan Van Khai Visits Saigon Port *[VNA]* 55
Export-Import Activities for 1992 Summarized *[VNA]* 55
Premier Issues Complaint Settlement Directive *[Hanoi Radio]* 55

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Keating, Opposition Chief Trade Accusations *[AFP]* 57

Fiji

Officials Discuss Resumption of Australian Defense Links *[Melbourne International]* 57
  Military Training To Resume *[AFP]* 58

Tonga

Police Minister Accuses MP's of Treason *[AFP]* 58
  AFP Previews Election 58
Premier: Australian Aid Policy 'Too Expensive' *[AFP]* 59
PRC Pressures Government To Break Taiwan Ties *[AFP]* 59

U.S., EC Said Seeking Safeguards for PRC To Join GATT

OW0402114093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1124 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—The United States and the European Community (EC) are seeking approval for setting safeguard measures particularly targeted at China as a condition to allowing the country in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Japanese Government sources said Thursday.

The U.S. and EC want to prepare for possible import dumping by China in their markets, the sources said, adding that GATT officials will soon take up the issue at a working-level session.

Under current GATT rules, a country can impose safeguard measures—emergency import controlling rules to apply against a sudden surge of imports—when it intends to apply the measures against all exporting countries of a particular product concerned. The safeguards are not allowed to be set against one particular country.

A country that introduces safeguard measures also has to reduce tariffs on other imported items to compensate for the import curb measures.

The Japanese Government sources said, however, the U.S. and EC are seeking special approval for imposing the measures only against China, and do not intend to take any compensating measures.

The U.S. and EC are demanding that the approval be written in an agreement with China and GATT member countries which China will sign when it joins GATT, the sources said. Such a demand will possibly invite China's opposition, they added.

China is currently negotiating to rejoin the world trade organization, which it left in 1950 after the Communist Party came into power.

Japan

Bank of Japan Cuts Discount Rate 4 Feb

Targets 'Enfeebled Economy'

OW0402005293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0006 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) on Thursday pruned the benchmark interest rate by 0.75 percentage point to an annual 2.50 percent, a widely-anticipated step aimed at helping pull the economy out of the worst slump in two decades.

The cut in the official discount rate is the sixth in the current phase of monetary easing, which began in July 1991, and put the official discount rate at the same level as its previous record low of 2.50 percent, which lasted from February 23, 1987 to May 31, 1989, when it was hiked to 3.25 percent.

The decision, which came after several days of wild speculation about the move, reflects the growing concern among central bank economists over a further deterioration of the already enfeebled economy, analysts said.

The signs of an economic malaise are ubiquitous, with most recent economic indicators, ranging from consumer spending to capital investment and industrial production, showing their weakest readings for many years.

The nation's fiscal and monetary policy makers brooded over the grim conditions in a recent BOJ branch managers' meeting, as well as at another meeting of senior local Finance Ministry officials.

Despite the BOJ's decision to ease credit further, economists generally doubt whether the rate cut will be a sufficient stimulus for the economy to take off soon.

They say its impact will be largely confined to an "announcement effect," though this might at least help improve general sentiment about the economy.

Nevertheless, one expected positive effect is a contribution to improving corporate balance sheets, not only for financial bodies plagued by bad debts but also for private enterprises in general.

Some analysts argue the announcement is well timed because it could boost the confidence of companies just as they begin to plan their plant and equipment investments for next fiscal year, which begins April 1.

But critics counter that many firms are still undergoing burdensome stock adjustments as a result of huge investments in the past and are in no condition to increase capital spending so soon.

Other economists hope the credit easing will be good news for the Tokyo stock market, which is still languishing at half the level of its peak at the end of 1989.

Financial sources have said the sixth discount rate cut—or at least its timing—has been implemented with an eye to stock market conditions prior to the March settlement of accounts for the current fiscal year.

There are fears in the market that companies may jettison their holdings to boost profits on the books, especially if they believe prices have no chance of recuperating in the near future.

Some analysts say the decision by the central bank has come too late.

Yozo Nishimura, an economist at the Bank of Tokyo, said, "I give the BOJ credit in that the reduction was at the top end of the speculated 0.5-0.75 percentage point range...but the timing is too late...the market has been expecting it since last fall."

The problem for the BOJ, Nishimura said, is that the latest cut will not convince businesses that it will be the last.

As long as companies continue to expect lower interest rates, they will not be prompted to borrow fresh money to make fixed investments, Nishimura said.

Anticipation of lower rates may temporarily push up stock prices, he said, but the prospect for a major upturn in stock prices remains slim unless the business conditions really pick up.

The financial markets are already talking about another rate reduction, sometime near the July summit meeting in Tokyo of leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations, and some analysts believe it could come in combination with a fresh fiscal package, another version of the pump-priming measures announced by the government last August.

But Nishimura warned that the most urgent hurdle is the March settlement of accounts. Another monetary easing or at least an announcement of a new fiscal pump-priming package may be necessary to counter depression among institutional investors.

"What we must fear the most is panic selling by such investors," he said.

Nonetheless, it usually takes about half a year for a credit ease to show its effect on the real economy and analysts say the latest discount rate cut is only a step toward curing the ailing economy, claiming further measures are inescapable.

Miyazawa: 'Comprehensive Judgment'

OW0402031193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0135 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed his support Thursday for a cut in the official discount rate by the Bank of Japan, saying it was apparently "a comprehensive judgment including the domestic economy and finance."

He was answering questions by reporters at the Diet after the central bank announced it was cutting the rate by 0.75 percentage point to 2.50 percent per annum.

MITI Chief Welcomes 'Drastic' Cut

OW0402031293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0119 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori welcomed the Bank of Japan's move Thursday to cut its official discount rate.

In a statement, Mori called the cut "drastic" and "really appropriate" and said he hopes companies will become more confident about their business prospects.

Mori's statement was made after a 0.75 percentage point deduction in the rate, which the central bank charges on loans to commercial banks.

Business Seeks More

OW0402042193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0349 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Japanese business leaders welcomed the Bank of Japan's discount rate cut as "timely" and "appropriate" Thursday, but called for additional measures including another rate cut and lower income tax to prop up the flagging economy.

"I frankly praise the rate cut," said Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), at a press conference after the central bank announced a 0.75 percentage point cut in its official discount rate.

Speaking separately, Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "I welcome the timely judgment."

Especially now with no signs of an economic recovery, the credit easing will likely lead to "improving business psychology," said Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Association (Nikkeiren).

But Nagano went on to call for "every possible measures if the economy sinks further through March."

Ishikawa also urged for "stimulus policy from the fiscal and tax system side to cope with the minus effect from lower interest income on consumption."

Concerning the possibility of a rekindling of Japan's bubble economy with the postwar low discount rate of 2.50 percent per annum, the business leaders seemed to agree that there is no such worry.

"Given the stable domestic prices and foreign exchange rate as well as the recent trend in the real estate market, I see no need to worry," said Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai).

G-7 Undecided on Yeltsin Summit Invitation

OW0402035593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0336 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. KYODO [no date as received]—Japan said Thursday the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries have not yet decided whether to invite Russian President Boris Yeltsin to their annual economic summit in Tokyo in July.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono made the comment in response to a Russian news report indicating that Japan is ready to invite Yeltsin to the meeting.

Kono told a news conference that Japan is still consulting with representatives of G-7 countries over whether to ask Yeltsin to confer with leaders of the major economic powers during their July 7-9 gathering.

In a Wednesday interview with INTERFAX news agency, Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze said that Japan's cabinet "stands for" an invitation to Yeltsin to attend the meeting.

Last year at the Munich Summit Yeltsin was invited to a special session with the leaders of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

In the interview, Kunadze also said that Yeltsin may visit Tokyo prior to the economic summit if the two countries can reach a compromise over key issues.

These issues include a long-standing dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, which were seized at the close of World War II.

Tokyo Studies Tariffication Alternatives

OW0402140593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 4 Feb 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Domestic and foreign sources have disclosed that Japan has been studying the possibility of accepting tariffication of 23 of 25 agricultural items under discussion at the Uruguay Round of the GATT talks.

Until now, the Japanese Government has rejected tariffication of all 25 items. But, the sources say, Japan is now unofficially negotiating with the United States and the European Community. The Japanese Government still rejects the idea of tariffication of rice imports. However, sources say the government is studying the possibility of introducing tariffication of other agricultural products, including wheat, butter, condensed milk, in fact all other items with the exception of rice and rice powder. The government is also said to be studying what conditions might be attached if the tariffication is accepted.

The conditions include the introduction of two different tariff increases on imported wheat. A low tariff rate, for example, would be applied on imports of wheat up to the volume currently imported, so that the price of imported wheat would be the same as that of domestically produced wheat.

On the other hand, to prevent a drastic increase of imports, a higher rate would be applied on imports when the volume exceeded that currently imported. The government also plans to introduce a mechanism under which it would control the import of agricultural products.

Sources say Japan has sounded out the United States, the EC and Canada on these conditions. But, they also say that these countries strongly oppose the proposal because Japan has made no concessions on the rice issue, and because the proposed tariff would not boost imports of other items.

The Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries has insisted discussing with other nations the possibility of accepting tariffication while continuing to express its opposition to tariffication.

The ministry, however, has said that it has not offered to accept the tariffication on any items under discussion.

Kono 'Worried' by U.S. Congress Imports Moves

OW0402043793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0417 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Top government spokesman Yohei Kono said Thursday he is worried by moves in the U.S. Congress to restrict imports.

Commenting on trade bills before Congress that would punish countries for what are seen as unfair trading practices, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono urged the United States to adhere to the basic principles of free trade.

"I am worried that (the U.S.) is moving in the direction of restricting imports item by item," Kono told a daily news conference.

"I hope that the debate in Congress, and then the White House, will yield a judicious decision," Kono said.

On Tuesday, Sen. Max Baucus, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Trade, introduced a trade bill that would allow the U.S. to retaliate against countries that do not give satisfactory responses in negotiations on eliminating what the U.S. views as unfair trade barriers.

Another bill proposed by Baucus, the Trade Agreements Compliance Act, would authorize the U.S. Government to punish countries it concludes are not abiding by trade agreements.

In a speech, Baucus singled out Japan as a country that maintains trade barriers blocking U.S. exports and openly violates trade agreements.

U.S. Government and industry officials have pointed to trade with Japan in semiconductors and motor vehicles as areas of concern.

Tokyo Reacts to U.S. Airlines Dispute

OW0402130893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Japan is ready to consider retaliating against the United States if it takes reprisal action against Japanese airlines in connection with bilateral airline disputes, government officials said Thursday.

The officials made the remark while commenting on reports that U.S. Transportation Secretary Frederico Pena accused Japan of violating a bilateral aviation accord and said his department is considering reprisals against Japanese airlines.

The disputes stemmed from Japan's rejection of United Airlines' request to extend its service between Tokyo and New York to Sydney.

The U.S. Transportation Department said one option being considered is to limit Japan airlines' rights to carry passengers between Los Angeles and Brazil on flights linking Japan and Los Angeles.

Tokyo, EC Open Auto Trade Conference

OW0402111793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1029 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Brussels, Feb. 4 KYODO—Japanese and European community (EC) Commission negotiators opened a two-day conference in Brussels on Thursday to set 1993 quotas on Japanese car exports to the EC and individual EC member nations.

Japanese officials said export limits will be set for France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Britain as well as for the EC under a 1991 Japan-EC agreement.

They said Japan and the EC have entered a seven-year transition period in their automobile trade which is expected to end with the EC's full liberalization of car imports.

Japan last year cut its quota for car exports to the EC by 6 percent from the previous year to 1,185,000 vehicles.

EC negotiators are expected to demand a considerable reduction in the quota for this year, saying EC car sales for the year are likely to post a year-on-year fall of 3 to 4 percent, the Japanese officials said.

Some European experts note that the EC's economic growth rate this year is expected to slow down to 0.8 percent from the 1.1 percent last year.

Japan will seek an increase in the quota, contending that EC car sales this year are likely to increase slightly from the previous year, the officials said.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Urges More Aid

OW0402102293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0934 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo on Thursday urged Japan to extend more official development assistance (ODA), particularly grant aid, to his struggling country.

"Clearly I'm here to ensure... (Japan's) ODA continues to be as strong as it has in the past, and hopefully a little more," Romulo said at a luncheon meeting of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

Romulo, who arrived Tuesday [2 February] for a five-day official visit, also said he wants to make sure Japan's aid to the Philippines "manifests itself a little more percentage-wise in the form of grants as opposed to loans."

The foreign affairs chief came across as an economic and trade emissary, reflecting President Fidel Ramos' recent declaration that Philippine foreign policy would henceforth concentrate on economic diplomacy.

In talks Wednesday with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Romulo was quoted as calling for more Japanese investment and urging that Japan, already the Philippines greatest benefactor, boost its aid program further.

Japanese Foreign Ministry sources said Thursday that Romulo had also asked Japan to be as generous as possible at a World Bank-sponsored international aid pledging session for the Philippines, scheduled to be held in Paris in June.

Romulo said the Philippines hopes Japan will quickly disburse Japan's 18th loan package for the Philippines, some of which has already been pledged at the last international donors meeting in Hong Kong in March 1992.

Commenting on the Philippines' economic woes, Romulo said there are no "instant remedies" for what he cited as the country's two greatest obstacles to development—an energy shortage and internal disorder.

The foreign secretary called the security problem still "very, very serious," but said insurgencies by ideological revolutionaries, Muslim separatists, and military rebels are "no longer a problem on a nationwide scale."

Romulo said the Philippines is optimistic it can emulate the strong economic performance of some of its neighbors, such as Thailand and Malaysia.

He said he broached in his talks with Watanabe the subject of Filipino "comfort women" who were forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II.

"For the first time, the Japanese Government, at that high level, has expressed on a bilateral basis remorse and apology over the pain and suffering caused to the comfort women," he said.

Romulo quoted Watanabe as saying Tokyo is considering ways of manifesting its remorse and said, "We have agreed to keep in touch with the Japanese side on this issue."

Ministry officials had quoted Romulo as telling Watanabe that Manila wants the issue resolved in a quiet manner without rancor.

Ramos, scheduled to visit Tokyo in mid-March, is reported to be considering a proposal to establish a foundation to avail financial support to Filipino comfort women.

A nongovernment task force in Manila says it can attest to the authenticity of some 18 Filipinos who claim to have been comfort women, but Romulo only said, "There has been one woman in the Philippines who has admitted that she was indeed a comfort woman."

Lack of Philippine 'Comfort Women' Data Hinders Study

OW0402062693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0310 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—An absence of adequate data may hamper an investigation into the former Imperial Japanese Army's use of Philippine women as forced suppliers of sexual services during World War II, a senior government source said Thursday.

The source said that unlike Korea, there is no longer any data on the use of "comfort women" in the Philippines.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romula, who arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for a five-day visit, told Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Wednesday that he hoped Japan would resolve the Philippine "comfort women" issue.

In December, a nongovernment group in the Philippines announced it would seek compensation from Japan on behalf of 31 Filipinas who claimed they were forced to serve as "comfort women" for Japanese troops during World War II.

Watanabe: Troops To Stay in Cambodia

OW0402061793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0550 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Thursday Japan has no plan to withdraw its peacekeepers from Cambodia because of renewed fighting there.

Speaking at a session of the House of Representatives budget committee, Watanabe said Japan cannot "be the first to say 'good- bye' just because there is fighting in some areas."

There is no alternative for Japan but to carry on with its peacekeeping efforts while securing the safety of its personnel, he said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the Diet on Wednesday that the framework of the 1991 Paris peace agreement has not been broken although the Phnom Penh Government launched a large-scale offensive against the Khmer Rouge on Monday.

Japan sent its peacekeepers to the war-torn country last year after enacting legislation allowing Self-Defense Forces personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The legislation requires Tokyo to withdraw its personnel from U.N. operations in the event of a breakdown of a ceasefire.

Watanabe also said Japan has no plans to join peacekeeping operations in Somalia "except under (certain) conditions."

Miyazawa Views UN Peace Enforcement Plan

OW0402105193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Thursday showed caution over Japan's participation in a peace enforcement unit proposed by United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Miyazawa said Japan will continue to contribute to the international community within the framework of its war-renouncing Constitution.

Speaking at a session of the House of Representatives budget committee, Miyazawa said, "Although Japan must positively contribute to the United Nations, it should not use force except for self-defense."

Last June the U.N. chief proposed creating a peace enforcement unit of heavily armed soldiers in a set of suggestions on improving the world body in peacemaking and peacekeeping.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe echoed Miyazawa's views, saying Japan "cannot keep up right now with the proposal which calls for realization of justice with more heavily armed forces."

Watanabe, however, said the government is interested in the proposal.

Miyazawa said debate on a constitutional revision should not be made taboo but that there has been no national consensus on what points should be debated and how to revise the Constitution.

"The cabinet does not think a revision (of the Constitution) is on the agenda," Miyazawa said.

The Constitution bans the use of force to settle international disputes.

On peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Watanabe said Japan has no plan to withdraw its peacekeepers because of renewed fighting there.

Watanabe said Japan cannot "be the first to say goodbye just because there is fighting in some areas."

There is no alternative for Japan but to carry on with its peacekeeping efforts while securing the safety of its personnel, he said.

Miyazawa told the Diet Wednesday that the framework of the 1991 Paris peace agreement has not collapsed although the Phnom Penh government launched a large offensive against the Khmer Rouge on Monday.

Japan sent its peacekeepers to the war-torn country last year after enacting legislation allowing self-defense forces personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The legislation requires Tokyo to withdraw its personnel from U.N. operations in the event of a breakdown of a ceasefire.

Watanabe also said Japan has no plans to join peacekeeping operations in Somalia "except under (certain) conditions."

LDP: Constitution Permits UN Role for SDF

OW0302044393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0425 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—A ruling Liberal Democratic Party panel said Wednesday Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) could participate in United Nations forces even under the current Constitution which bans the use of force.

The panel, headed by former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, made the proposal in its final report on boosting Japan's role in international affairs.

The panel adopted the report in its General Assembly and submitted it to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who is also the LDP president.

Introducing the concept of U.N.-led "international security," the paper suggested that Japan cooperate with forces formed under the U.N. Charter or to join them in operations.

Ozawa told a press conference that such a concept would allow Tokyo to participate in operations led by the more heavily armed U.N. peacemaking forces as proposed by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

On Monday, however, Foreign Ministry sources said the government plans to make clear its view when Butrus-Ghali visits Japan on February 15 that it cannot join the peace enforcement unit due to current constitutional limitations.

The sources said, however, that the government will debate the proposal.

The paper said the U.N. Charter, which permits use of force to maintain international peace, is compatible with the spirit of the Constitution's preamble which stipulates that "no nation is responsible to itself alone."

The Constitution's spirit is "active pacifism" rather than "passive pacifism" that has been behind Japan's foreign policy since its defeat in World War II, it said.

Under the traditional government interpretation, Japan is not allowed to dispatch SDF personnel overseas as Article 9 prohibits the use of force as a means of settling international conflicts.

Tokyo enacted a law in 1992 empowering a limited overseas deployment of SDF to assist U.N. peacekeeping operations, but a legal provision bans its peacekeepers from joining activities that may involve the use of force.

The report said Japan's participation in the U.N.-led operations will not violate Article 9, which states Japan must "forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force," because it is one part of U.N. actions.

The LDP panel was formed in 1991 to explore ways to increase Japan's contribution to the international community after harsh criticism against its role in the Gulf war of providing only financial support, and not personnel, to the U.S.-led multinational forces.

Japan provided a total of 13 billion dollars to the multinational forces and countries surrounding the Persian Gulf. Tokyo later sent minesweepers to help clear explosives laid by Iraq from the Persian Gulf.

The LDP panel compiled a draft report in February 1992, urging the government to change its traditional interpretation, sparking angry protests from opposition parties.

Political analysts said the final report, however, may not forestall discussion within the LDP as Miyazawa and other party officials are relatively indifferent to the report.

The analysts cited as another reason Ozawa's weakening influence in the party due to the split of the LDP's largest faction led by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, in which Ozawa served as deputy chairman.

In December, Ozawa and former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata led 44 LDP members to break away from the faction, while former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi split with the remaining 62 members.

Muto Views Income Tax Cuts as Possible Option

OW0302092193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0758 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) may consider income tax cuts as one of the options for economic stimulation after the Diet passes the fiscal 1993 budget, according to to the head of an LDP tax panel.

Kabun Muto, chairman of the LDP's Tax System Research Council, said in a recent interview with KYODO News Service that the LDP cannot accept opposition demands for revision of the budget bill to incorporate income tax cuts.

He said, however, it is conceivable for the LDP to consider income tax cuts as an option after the government obtains Diet approval of the budget and implements other economic stimulation measures.

Muto said such measures include efforts to solve problems stemming from huge bad loans of commercial banks, to support the stock price of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), a former government monopoly, and to assist companies in producing lower-priced quality, consumer goods.

There have been growing demands for income tax cuts from business leaders and opposition parties as well as some politicians of the LDP.

Effort To 'Help Buoy' Economy

OW0402103893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is considering an income tax cut in an effort to stimulate the sluggish economy, LDP officials said Thursday.

The LDP expects the pump-priming measure, combined with Thursday's cut in the official discount rate by the Bank of Japan, [BOJ] to help buoy the economy, the officials said.

The LDP's committee to study economic stimulative measures, headed by Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, is expected to work out how to implement an income tax cut which would be funded by issuing deficit-covering bonds, they said.

Opposition parties and most business leaders have been requesting a 4 trillion yen to 5 trillion yen income tax reduction. The Ministry of Finance, however, is entirely against it.

Yasuaki Takano, president of Sanyo Electric Co. which is suffering an operating loss, said, "The government should lower the income tax in order to boost consumer spending."

A senior executive at Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. said a prompt income tax reduction after the official discount rate cut would be a big help in boosting the economy.

Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of Toyota Motor Corp., said, "The key lending rate cut by the central bank is regarded as part of the stimulative economic measures."

Toyoda also said an income tax reduction should be introduced as soon as possible so it would be an overwhelming lure for consumer spending.

Chubu Electric Power Co. President Kohei Abe said further comprehensive economic measures, such as an income tax reduction and greater public works spending, should be carried out immediately. "The effects of the BOJ's rate cut would be limited," if there are no further stimulative measures, he said.

Hayashi Says No to Plan To Cut Income Taxes

OW0402031393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0134 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Thursday he has no plans to introduce new pump-priming measures, including income tax cuts, following the Bank of Japan's reduction in its official discount rate.

Speaking to reporters after the central bank's announcement of a 0.75 percentage cut in the discount rate, Hayashi said the rate reduction should have a good impact on corporate sentiment and the stock market.

Hayashi shrugged off fears that the rate cut could rekindle asset inflation as seen in the late 1980s, saying that there is no need to be worried about another "bubble" economy.

The bubble economy refers to asset inflation marked by soaring real estate prices during the late 1980s when the official discount rate was at an extremely low level.

The latest discount rate reduction brought the base rate to a level that matches the postwar low of 2.50 percent. The official discount rate is the interest the central bank charges on its loans to commercial banks.

Mitsuzuka Urges Wage Hike To Boost Economy

OW0402130493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1239 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—A senior ranking official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) urged business leaders Thursday to raise wages during the annual spring labor offensive to stimulate the economy, party sources said.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, made the remark at a meeting of party members and business leaders on boosting the lackluster economy.

Mitsuzuka said industries should hold a serious discussion on bringing about a wage hike, adding that a sector of the electorate is requesting earlier summer bonuses, they said.

Executives of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) and three other economic bodies said the government should carry out large-scale income tax reductions and enact the fiscal 1993 budget as early as possible.

Kabun Muto, chairman of the LDP's Tax System Research Council, attributed the economic slowdown to the financial system and said the business community should consider a change in its structure, including mergers, the sources said.

Justice Ministry Studies Auditing Law Revision

OW0402090393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0747 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—The Ministry of Justice is seeking a revision of the commercial law to strengthen the rights of auditors to check corporate management, ministry officials said Thursday.

The ministry is studying the law revision in the wake of many scandals involving securities firms and financial institutions during the speculative "bubble" economy in the late 1980s.

A stronger auditing system is expected to improve the checking system of corporations' management and to help avoid a recurrence of corporate scandals, the officials said.

The ministry will propose a bill to the Diet later this month, after it receives a report next Wednesday from an advisory panel for the Justice Minister about the revision, they added.

They said the report is expected to recommend several points to be changed in the commercial law and related rules.

One of the changes will be that the current two-year term for a corporate auditor will be extended to at least three years.

Large-scale corporations, which are capitalized at more than 500 million yen, or which have total debts of more than 20 billion yen, will also be recommended to increase the number of auditors to at least three from the currently required two.

Corporations will also be recommended to hire auditors from outside of organization as much as possible, or hire those who have not worked with them for at least the last five years, the officials said.

The revised law will ease conditions for stockholders to enable them to have greater opportunity to see corporations' account books, they added.

At present, stockholders have to hold more than 10 percent of outstanding equity shares in a company in order to see its account book, but under the revised law shareholders will be required to have only 3 percent of the equity share, the sources said.

Ministry To Promote Mechanization of Farming

OW0202110993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1029 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—The Farm Ministry said Tuesday it will promote mechanization of farming to help vegetable farmers overcome a labor shortage caused by the graying farming community.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries said the plan calls for the development of farming robots to ease the labor shortage and reduce working hours of vegetable growers, which now total about 2,200 hours per year.

In a report on mechanization of vegetable farming released Tuesday, the ministry called on public research institutes and manufacturers to step up research and development of new implements designed to ease the labor shortage.

The report said the ministry should enhance relaxation of quality standards for vegetables to cover additional items such as cabbages, radishes, and onions in fiscal 1993, which will begin April 1.

The ministry eased shipment standards for six items, including tomatoes, cucumbers, and eggplants in fiscal 1992.

North Korea

Vice Premier Meets PRC Cultural Delegation

SK0402113093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 4 (KCNA)—Vice-premier Chang Chol met and had a friendly conversation with the Chinese Government cultural delegation led by Vice-minister of Culture Chen Changben at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

The head of the delegation said that while in Korea they had witnessed brilliant achievements made by the Korean people in the revolution and construction under the wise guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song and dear secretary Kim Chong-il and that the modern structures built in Pyongyang had left deep impressions on them.

Dear secretary Kim Chong-il who is always concerned for the people's living has taken measures to complete the construction of 50,000 flats in a short period to fully solve the people's housing problem, he added.

Noting that he had been deeply moved by the level of cultural and art development of Korea and the achievements in the creation of characteristic national art, he said all of this was a great success registered under the wise guidance of dear Secretary Kim Chong-il.

Belarusian Party, WPK Issue Joint Statement

SK0402072593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 4 (KCNA)—A joint statement of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Party of Communists of Belarus [PCB] was published here today.

According to it, a delegation of the PCB has paid a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from January 29 to February 4 at the invitation of the WPK Central Committee.

During the visit, the delegation highly estimated the great victory and progress made by the Korean people in the building of socialism centered on the popular masses through the powerful acceleration of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Talks were held between delegations of the WPK and the PCB.

The sides informed each other of their parties' activities and exchanged views on the question of developing bilateral relations, international issues and other matters of common concern.

The sides shared the view that the signing of the Pyongyang declaration by 155 parties clearly proves that the socialist idea is the goal of the struggle and the common aspiration of the communists and other progressive people of the world.

By confirming the justness of the socialist cause and the inevitability of its victory, the Pyongyang declaration encourages the communists around the world to turn out in the struggle for realising their noble idea in keeping with the new conditions.

Stressing that it is most important for each party in the accomplishment of the socialist cause to lay solid organizational and ideological foundation, consolidate its mass foundations and conduct the party activities in conformity with the specific socio-political environment, the sides expressed the common desire to inform each other more frequently of their achievements and experiences gained in the party building and party activities and invigorate exchange between the parties.

The WPK highly appreciates the progress made by the PCB in strengthening itself as required by the situation prevailing in the country and rallying broad leftist forces to rebuild and develop the socialist movement.

The sides express the belief that if the communist, workers' and other progressive parties struggled with the Pyongyang declaration as the common program, it would be possible to further strengthen internationalist unity and solidarity based on independence and powerfully promote the cause of socialism.

The sides were of the same view that it is important to strengthen international support for the socialist countries and, at the same time, to activate the international solidarity movement for smashing the moves of the imperialists and the reactionary forces to prevent the revival of socialism in those countries where socialism has been frustrated temporarily.

The sides stressed the need for the communist and workers' parties to strengthen unity with all the genuinely democratic political parties and organizations and actively cooperate with them on the principle of mutual respect in the accomplishment of the socialist cause.

The sides hold that the broad peaceloving forces of the world should resolutely struggle to check the arms race and war policy of the imperialists, get foreign nuclear weapons and forces withdrawn from other countries and all the military bases dismantled.

The sides pay serious attention to the question of peace in Asia. They bitterly denounce the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities, considering the resumption of the exercises to be a grave threat to peace of the Korean peninsula, Asia and the rest of the world.

The sides urge that since the United States has no pretext to keep its troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea, it must withdraw them without delay to guarantee the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and let the Korean people themselve solve the question of national reunification peacefully on the principle of national independence.

The sides hold that the countries concerned must feel their responsibility and take the stand of solving the Korean question fairly to meet the demand of the time and the principle of international justice.

The WPK and the PCB will as ever oppose the policy of domination, subjugation, aggression and war and support and closely cooperate with each other for the cause of peace, democracy and socialism and for a new world, free and prospering.

Thai Prime Minister Meets WPK Delegation 25 Jan

SK3101094593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Chuan Likphai, leader of the Democrat Party and prime minister of Thailand, received a delegation of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] led by Chi Chae-yong, deputy director of a department of the party Central Commiittee, on 25 January. The head of the delegation conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the prime minister. The prime minister expressed deep gratitiude and asked the head of the delegation to convey his sincere greetings and wish for their long lives to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Referring to the friendship between the Thai Democrat Party and the WPK, he said he is convinced that relations between the two parties will be consolidated and developed in the future. The prime minister said he hopes Korea will be reunified as soon as possible according to the Korean people's wishes.

Radio Alleges U.S., ROK Aerial Espionage Activity

SK0402110693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] The U.S. imperialists aggressors perpetrated aerial espionage acts intensively on the northern half of the Republic this year according to a military source, further aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula,

On 28 January, an E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System [AWACS] plane which took off from the Kadena base in Okinawa, Japan flew in to command the planes flying about in an aerial war exercise. At the same time, the AWACS plane flew into the sky over the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] area to perpetrate aerial espionage acts on the strategic depth of the northern half of the Republic. On 29 January, the U.S. imperialists madly conducted aerial espionage acts by mobilizing a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane, an RV-1 army tactical reconnaissance plane, and an RF-40 Air Force tactical reconnaissance plane in the sky above the MDL area. These planes spy on the strategic depths—inland, and coastal areas of the northern half of the Republic—by flying east and west repeatedly.

In January alone, U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes conducted some 30 instances of espionage activity, while RV-2 army tactical reconnaissance planes conducted espionage on some 90 occasions, which is 20 more occasions than December of last year.

The U.S. imperialist staged aerial exercises by mobilizing EH-60 electronic warfare helicopters. They repeatedly flew in the skies above Kanghwado to Munsan, Tongduchon in order to commit espionage activity over our side's western front area on January 6-7 and again on January 11-14.

Following their formal announcement of the resumption of the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise, the U.S. imperialists have increased their vicious aerial espionage activity on the northern half of the Republic daily by mobilizing ten reconnaissance planes of various types.

This year, the U.S. imperialists mobilized strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes and AWACS planes on 210 occasions in January to commit aerial espionages on the northern half of the Republic.

The ever-intensifying aerial espionage acts by the U.S. imperalists clearly reveal how frantically they are running amuck to prepare a new war of northward invasion on the Korean peninsula.

KCNA Reviews 2 Feb Pyongyang Press

SK0202050993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 2 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received congratulatory messages and letters from different countries on the new year 1993 and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received new year's cards, congratulatory messages and letters from abroad on the same occasion.

Printed in NODONG SINMUN are a letter to President Kim Il-song from the chairman of the Guyanese National Committee for the study of the chuche idea of Comrade Kim Il-song and an account of a meeting held in Peru supporting his new year address.

The press comes out with articles on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the publication of "On Some Problems for the Improvement of the Management of the Socialist Economy", a classical work of President Kim Il-song.

It is reported in the press that Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to the family of No Se-yong, a worker of the tool shop of the Taedonggang Electric Appliance factory of the Taean Heavy Machine Complex who volunteered to work at a coal mine.

The January assignments were fulfilled with success at the factories and enterprises across the country including main units of the national economy such as those under the Ministry of the Coal Industry, the State Power Industry Commission and the Ministry of the Metal Industry, says the press.

The press reports about innovations effected by Korean young people in production and construction greeting the 8th Congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth.

Papers inform the readers of the opening of the third individual contest for "February 16 Art Prize" in Pyongyang on the occasion of the significant February holiday.

The South Korean magazine MAL exposed the criminal acts of the South Korean authorities in using children as a means of earning foreign currency, reports NODONG SINMUN. Seen in the daily is an article about the miserable lot of South Korean workers.

Under the title "Korea Is a Country Where the State Is Wholly Responsible for the People's Life" the daily rounds up voices of world public praising the Korean socialist system.

The press conveys voices of foreign political and public circles supporting the DPRK's proposal for national reunification through confederacy, and carries news that foreign newspapers and radios denounced the decision of the United States and the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

NODONG SINMUN runs articles under the respective titles "There Is No Reason To Resume the 'Team Spirit' Joint Military Exercises" and "The Question of Korea's Reunification Is a National and International Issue as Well".

The 140th birth anniversary of Jose Marti was celebrated in Cuba, says the press.

The press reports that the president of the African National Congress of South Africa called for continued sanctions against South Africa and the Tanzanian president called upon the people to achieve unity.

Israel's deportation of Palestinians is under fire in many countries, and trade friction is getting worse among capitalist countries recently, reports the press.

"Anti-imperialist Force for Independence Is Motive Force of the Struggle for Global Independence" is the title of a MINJU CHOSON article.

KCNA on 3 Feb Press

SK0302054693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today highlights an editorial headlined "Let Us Step Up Socialist Construction in Revolutionary Spirit of Self-Reliance and Hard Struggle". The editorial calls upon the entire party members and working people to steadily speed up socialist construction by giving fuller play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle and thus fully demonstrate the might of our-style socialism and the revolutionary mettle and heroic stamina of our people.

Papers carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Vaclav Havel upon his election as president of the Czech Republic.

NODONG SINMUN prints a new year message and messages of solidarity to President Kim Il-song from foreign party and state leaders.

The daily reports that the new year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song was disseminated and studied in different countries. Echoed in the daily are voices of the world public about the new year address.

A Nepalese publication carried an article captioned "Leadership of President Kim Il-song and the Future of Korea", says the daily.

It is reported in the press that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to Pyongyang University of Railways which gave full play to the advantages of our socialist educational system by managing correspondence course of education well.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article on the lapse of one year since Comrade Kim Chong-il met officials, creative workers and artistes in the cinematic art field, and published a talk, saying that the feature film "The Nation and Destiny" should be made a great monumental masterpiece of our era.

The daily deals with the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il in bringing up the young people to be vanguards boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader.

The Indian paper event carried an article titled "Kim Chong-il, He Is the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army", says the daily.

Under the title "The Party Is Destiny of Our People and Symbol of Happiness" the daily edits articles showing the faith and will of our people to strive for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche, following Comrade Kim Chong-il, on the occasion of the significant February holiday.

Papers report about innovations in iron and steel production and new year's farm preparations.

The first vice-minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK gave answers to questions by a KCNA reporter as regards the visit to Korea of a special envoy of the Russian president, says the press.

It is reported in the press that the Pakistani president received a delegation of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and the Gold Crown, the highest prize of the festival, was awarded to the DPRK acrobatic "aerial trapeze flight" at the 17th Monte Carlo International Acrobatic Festival.

Kim Kuk-hyon, 37, who was a painter of the Yosu Hyundai apartment in South Cholla provincial district of Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd., South Korea came over to the northern half of Korea, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article stressing that to enforce "civilian politics" in South Korea, it is necessary to root out the irregularities of the "Sixth Republic".

Papers report that different countries sent solidarity letters and made public statements supporting the DPRK's policy of national reunification, the Japan mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front made public a statement demanding a stop to the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and foreign media exposed the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line.

"What Is Japan's Establishment of 'New International Order'" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

Papers observe the first anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Republic of Byelarus.

The Iranian president criticized the United States, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the PLO called for convening a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the mattter of giving sanctions against Israel and there is wrangle in the West over the seats of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

NODONG SINMUN Comments on Events, Issues

Stresses Self-Reliance, Struggle

SK0302105793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 3 Feb 93

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Revolutionary Spirit of Self-reliance and Hard Struggle in Accelerating Socialist Construction"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 3 (KCNA)—For the whole party and the entire people to give full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle is important in effecting a constant upswing in the building of socialism, true to the intention and guidance of the party and the leader, says NODONG SINMUN today editorially.

The editorial says the people building socialism should make revolution, believing in their own strength and relying on it under any circumstances, and break through any difficulties with their own efforts.

It quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"The revolutionary tasks facing us and the obtaining situation make it incumbent upon us to give fuller scope to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle. Herein lies the key to the promotion of the revolution and construction and the improvement of the people's standard of living."

The editorial says:

The imperialists and reactionaries are viciously trying to isolate and stifle the DPRK, the bulwark of socialism. It is, therefore, a vital question related to the destiny of our revolution and our socialism for the entire people to have a firm conviction of victory and optimism and give full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle.

To make vigorous efforts in this spirit is an important requisite to resolutely defending and exalting the glorious history and traditions of our revolution.

Self-reliance is a banner of our people's faith; this will make the glorious history and tradition of our revolution shine endlessly.

To give full play to this revolutionary spirit is an essential requisite for realising the party's intention and plan to exalt our socialism through a great revolutionary upswing in the building of socialism.

It is the unshakable will and resolution of our party to put greater efforts on socialist economic construction this year, increase the economic potentials of the nation and radically improve the people's standard of living in the shortest period so as to demonstrate the advantages and might of our socialism.

Our revolutionary tasks are heavy and vast, but we have enough strength to fulfil them. We are sure to win as we have the party's wise leadership and the solid foundation of a powerful socialist independent economy.

The officials and working people should have a will and a firm belief that self-reliance is the only way of living a most glorious, dignified and proud life and the definite way of victory and should push ahead with socialist construction, giving full play to the high revolutionary spirit and indomitable fighting spirit of meeting the party's demands through thick and thin.

'Watch the Warmongers'

SK0302073993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0034 GMT 30 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 30 January editorial: "Let Us Watch the Warmongers' Nuclear War Plot With Vigilance"]

[Text] Despite unanimous protests and denunciation by all Korean people and peace-loving people all over the world, the United States and the South Korean authorities officially announced on 26 January that they would conduct the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise.

According to the announcement, not only the U.S. troops occupying South Korea and the puppet troops, but also a large number of troops from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region will be mobilized. Aircraft carriers loaded with nuclear weapons, fighters carrying nuclear weapons, various missiles—including Patriot missiles—and other ultramodern war equipment will be mobilized as well.

During this Team Spirit exercise, command post training and map training using computers will be conducted for the first time. At the same time, they will conduct mobile field training—which includes a combined landing operation, a river-crossing operation, an aerial strike operation, a commando operation, and training on dropping nuclear bombs—concentrating on targets in the northern half of the republic. This training has been conducted only rarely in the past.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The United States has conducted the Team Spirit joint military exercise in South Korea every year since 1976. The exercise is a preliminary war and a test nuclear war to practice waging a preemptive strike against the northern half of our republic.

Either in view of the size of the war exercise and the classification of the equipment that is to be mobilized in the exercise, or in view of its component and especially its goal, the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise slated for this year is of an unprecedented grave and dangerous nature.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities resume the suspended Team Spirit joint military exercise using so-called suspicion of the North's nuclear development as a groundless pretext. This is very serious.

It is clear to everyone that the United States and its servants, the South Korean authorities, who became very arrogant when the international balance of power collapsed, are attempting to fulfill their ambition to dominate all of Korea using deterrence of the North's nuclear development as a pretext.

Our people cannot repress their indignation that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are conducting the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise again in order to achieve their insidious political purpose. There is no reason for the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to conduct dangerous war exercises like the Team Spirit joint military exercise on the Korean peninsula.

Last year North and South Korea adopted and effectuated the historic agreement on nonaggression and the joint denuclearization declaration. While enthusiastically supporting the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration, our fellow countrymen in the North, South, and abroad expect that independent reunification, our people's long-cherished desire, can be realized as soon as possible when they are smoothly implemented.

The United States and South Korean authorities suspended the Team Spirit joint military exercise when the North and South failed to adopt their agreement on nonaggression and the joint denuclearization declaration. However, they have decided to resume the exercise now that the North-South agreement on nonaggression and the joint denuclearization declaration have been adopted and put into effect. Nothing can justify this.

The resumption of the provocative Team Spirit joint military exercise by the United States and South Korean authorities is an antidialogue, antipeace, and antireunification criminal act aimed at destroying North-South dialogue and at suspending the implementation of the agreement, while aggravating tension on the Korean peninsula.

Because of changes in the international situation, the cold war confrontation between the East and the West was ended and the world has been moving toward reconciliation and detente.

At such a time, the United States, swaying again [word indistinct] weapons of the cold war in the Far East, attempts to threaten the socialist Korea with its force of arms and to gain supremacy over it with its might. This is an anachronistic, imprudent act based on its aggressive and arrogant nature.

Although the United States and South Korean authorities are babbling about the suspicion of the North's nuclear development and the delay of the nuclear inspection, this is a shameless act of reversing black and white.

As acknowledged by the world, the nuclear issue is raised on the Korean peninsula because of the United States. This issue has not been resolved yet due to the United States and South Korean authorities.

Everyone knows that the United States has turned South Korea into a nuclear forward base, the largest base in the Far East, where approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons are deployed for actual war. Even the United States itself admits this.

Although the United States talks as if it has withdrawn all its nuclear weapons from South Korea, and although the South Korean authorities talk as if there were no more nuclear weapons in South Korea, the nuclear weapons have not been removed from Korea, but have instead been stockpiled deep in underground depots. With U.S. assistance, the South Korean rulers are even accelerating its own nuclear weapons development.

These facts are revealed by builders who participated in building the underground depots of nuclear weapons, managers of the military bases, and military experts after the United States and South Korean authorities' announcement of the removal of tactical nuclear weapons.

The United States wants to continue using South Korea as its nuclear base. Therefore, it urges the South Korean authorities not to include U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in the nuclear inspections discussed at the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee meetings. Because of this, the inspection of nuclear facilities in the South and North is not yet made, nor do they even produce the nuclear inspection regulations. This is an open secret.

Speaking of us, we do not have nuclear weapons. We have neither the intention nor the capability to develop them. Because our nuclear policy is peace-loving and pure, we have received the International Atomic Energy Agency's irregular inspection justly and repeatedly.

The United States and South Korean authorities are creating a nuclear threat sitting on their nuclear bases, while blocking the overall inspection of nuclear facilities. They are babbling about the suspicion of the North's nonexistent nuclear development. They have also decided to conduct the nuclear war exercise for the northward invasion in order to shift onto us the responsibility for the delay of the nuclear inspection. This is an arrogant and shameless act as if a thief were crying "stop thief." This is also a criminal act against the ideal and basic demand of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—which stipulates that nuclear-weapon-possessing states should not pose a nuclear threat to nonnuclear states.

The resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise by the United States and South Korean authorities is an intolerable criminal act of destroying the North-South dialogue, of suspending the implementation of the agreement, of amazing our people with a military threat and nuclear blackmail, of undermining our socialist system, and of strengthening their supremacy over Asia while aggravating tension on the Korean peninsula. In the name of all people, thereby, we resolutely denounce them.

Resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise by the United States and the South Korean authorities will result in grave consequences.

Because the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are attempting to stage the Team Spirit joint military exercise, refusing to renounce their plan to hold for the exercise despite our repeated protests and warnings. North-South dialogue, including North-South high-level talks, have been frozen, and the implementation of the North-South agreement has been suspended at the brink of being put into practice.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities stage the Team Spirit joint military exercise, thus making the world reek from the powder of nuclear war, the situation on the Korean peninsula will return to the starting point of confrontation that prevailed before the agreement was adopted, that is, to a dangerous situation on the brink of war.

Anticipating the war of a northward invasion in a bid to realize its wild ambition for aggression against all of Korea, the United States has nailed down U.S. Forces in South Korea and has not withdrawn its nuclear weapons from there. Also, it has concluded the Wartime Host Nations Support Agreement, a war provocation document, with the South Korean authorities, but has also decided to deploy in South Korea its rapid deployment forces with the U.S. Navy and Air Force as their main forces, not only in case of emergency, but also during peacetime.

The United States has concentrated an enormous armed force for the Team Spirit joint military exercise. There is no guarantee that the United States will not light the fuse of the war of northward invasion, taking advantage of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, under the pretext of deterring nuclear development and the like.

The United States has held the vicious, colonial, military fascist rule over South Korea for almost half a century. Not satisfied with this, it is going to wage a game of nuclear war. This is an unforgivable crime.

The South Korean authorities attach more importance to collusion with foreign forces than to the agreement with their fellow countrymen. They are attempting to stage, together with the United States, a fire game of nuclear war to do harm to their fellow countrymen. This is an antinational criminal act to put not only the South Korean people but all countrymen under foreign forces' rule, and it is intolerable.

The grave situation on the Korean peninsula demands that all our people more firmly rally around the party and the leader and make thorough preparations so as to promptly smash any war provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers. Our people are the heroic people who smashed the U.S. imperialists' armed invasion and defended our fatherland to the last by displaying their peerless courage and spirit of self-sacrifice during the Fatherland Liberation War.

All party members and working people should vigorously struggle, with the same fighting spirit and trait that our people displayed during the arduous days of the war, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address, so that they can strengthen the might of the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style. Thus, they should cope with the reckless new war provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers.

Our people do not want war, but they do not beg for peace, either. If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities seek to provoke a war of aggression against our republic, our people will rise abruptly and defend to the last the socialist system and revolutionary gains that they have achieved at the cost of their blood.

Any military pressure or any method by force can neither startle our people united in one mind around the party and the leader, nor stop our people's movement toward socialism.

The U.S. imperialists and South Korean authorities must look straight at our people's revolutionary will, must not recklessly run wild, and must immediately stop the fire game of the Team Spirit nuclear war.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities stage the Team Spirit joint military exercise despite our repeated warnings, they will definitely be held responsible for all consequences arising therefrom.

Kim Chong-il's Comments on Film

SK0302105893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 3 Feb 93

["Highly Important Guideline Which Has Opened New Stage in Development of Chuche-based Cinematic Art"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 3 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry articles on the lapse of one year since the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il published a talk, saying that the feature film "The Nation and Destiny" should be a great monumental masterpiece of our era.

The author of a NODONG SINMUN article says:

The talk which analysed and summed up the achievements and experiences in the creation of the feature film "The Nation and Destiny" and indicated the way of consolidating and developing them is a highly important guideline which should be firmly maintained in completing the follow-ups of the film into a great worldwide masterpiece and effecting a new revolutionary turn in the building of chuche-based cinematic art.

The significance of the talk lies in that it has led to successfully breaking a new ground in our cinematic art by raising the seed of the multi-part feature film "The Nation and the Destiny" as the question of the destiny of the nation and individuals and, on this basis, indicating the question of giving a profound philosophical elucidation of the Korean-nation-first, Koryo-nation-first idea.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"The Korean-nation-first idea that our leader is the greatest, our party is the greatest and our nation is the greatest is the basic idea which should be consistently emphasized in the sequels of the feature film 'The Nation and Destiny'".

The talk gave a correct exposition of the general theme of the multi-part film—where lies the road of a worthy life of the nation?—through the life of the hero of the first two parts of the feature film "The Nation and Destiny" and raised mainly the question of depicting the theme in various forms to suit the characteristic features of each part by drawing on this experience.

The talk also put forward the question of giving a profound philosophical elucidation of the Korean-nation-first idea in the feature film on the basis of the seed of the film, the destiny of the nation and individuals, and indicated the orientation and ways for its materialisation.

At the same time, it analyzed the achievements in creating the characters on the basis of humanics and thus indicated the key to lifting the work to a high level not only in ideological content but also in artistic presentation.

The talk proved that the film became a worldwide masterpiece spreading a grand epochal canvas by ensuring the artistic depiction in the width and depth.

The idea and intention of the dear leader on making the feature film "the nation and destiny" a great monumental masterpiece of our era is displaying great vitality.

Its expected follow-ups will be flawless great monumental masterpiece in all aspects. This powerfully demonstrates the greatness and historical victory of the idea and theory on the chuche-based literature and art of our party.

Anniversary of Kim Chong-il Economic Work

SK0202105993 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1016 GMT 2 Feb 93

["Highly Important Guideline for Improvement of Management of Socialist Economy"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 2 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article contributed by Dr. Kim Chae-so on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the publication of "On Some Problems for the Improvement of the Management of the Socialist Economy," a classical work of the great leader President Kim Il-song (February 1, 1973).

The article says:

The work published by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a highly important one indicating the correct way of improving and strengthening guidance and management of the economy and steadily developing the economy in compliance with the requirements of the developing realities.

Its significance lies, first of all, in that it gives a clear exposition of the matters of principle in doing economic management in a rational manner to suit the essential requirements and characteristics of socialist society.

The article quotes Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"We should encourage all the working people to work willingly with the attitude of owners by conducting work with people, political work, in advance and increasing the political and moral incentives to labour. This is essential to ensure that production, management of the economy and all other work run smoothly."

The article further says:

In the work the great leader gave a scientific exposition of the principled matters in improving the management of the economy in keeping with the characteristics of socialist society, such as the questions of using the law of value in a planned way as a subsidiary instrument for the rational management of the economy: Encouraging the working people to work willingly with the attitude of owners toward production by conducting work with people, political work, in advance and increasing the political and moral incentives to labour and, at the same time, by combining them properly with material incentives, and of applying the cost-accounting system properly while adhering strictly to the principle of centralized planned management by the state.

Another significance of the work lies in the fact that it has made it possible to further regularize the management of the economy and thus thoroughly implement the Taean work system and bring its advantages into full play.

The Taean work system is the most advantageous system of economic management. Under the system the principle of collective guidance by the party committee and the mass line should be implemented in the management of the economy and the party's guidance, administrative and economic, and technical guidance be combined properly so that the producer masses can discharge their responsibility and role as owners and thus the economy be managed and run on a scientific basis and in a rational way. Regularizing the management of the economy is the mighty way of organizationally consolidating the Taean work system and bringing its advantages and vitality into full play.

In the work the great leader also clearly expounded important questions in regularizing the management of the economy including the question of introducing measures to do well the management of equipment and supply of materials and make a rational use of them and the question of correctly fixing work norms.

The validity of the idea and theory set out in the work has been proved fully in the practical management of the economy for the past 20 years, and the idea and theory have been further developed, enriched and perfected on a new height by our party, concludes the article.

Rejects Japan's 'New International Order'

SK0302052693 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0452 GMT 3 Feb 93

["NODONG SINMUN on Seamy Side of Japan's Call for 'New International Order'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 3 (KCNA)—The Japanese ruling quarters are now making free with pretty phrases claiming that the establishment of "a new international order" would benefit "peace and stability" and "prosperity and development" of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says, and adds: This is, however, intended to establish an order under which Japan would be the "leader" bossing the show in everything in this region.

Japan's advocation of "a new international order" is motivated, above all, by its economic interests.

Asian countries are rich in raw materials which are in demand in Japan. The Asian population accounts for more than a half of the world population, and many in this region are developing countries. Asia is very important for Japan geographically, too.

Hence Japan attaches ever greater importance to the Asia-Pacific region, intending to step up its economic infiltration into this region and thereby expand its sphere of influence and secure stable markets and raw material and resource supply bases.

Also lurking behind Japan's plan to establish "a new international order" is its military aim.

The Japanese ruling quarters are seeking through "a new international order" to create a favorable environment for binding the Asian and Pacific countries to the U.S. chariot of aggression and war and then to elbow away the United States by degrees and emerge as the "leader" of the region.

On the whole, they aim at becoming a political power through "a new international order".

What they have in mind is, first of all, to increase their political say in Asia commensurate with their economic and military potentials and thus become a political power in the international arena.

The argument for "a new international order" is a new crafty doctrine of aggression based on the dominationist ambition of the Japanese militarists who have revived under the aegis of the United States and got on their high horse.

Hails 'Politics of Benevolence'

SK3001084893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 28 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 28 Jan Special Article: "Hurrah for Socialism Where Politics of Benevolence Is Being Carried Out"]

[Text] In our country, the party and the leader trust the people; the people trust the party and the leader [suryong]; and our country is staunchly advancing in a perfect harmony of the party and the people.

Our party is solving all the problems arising in carrying out revolution and construction with firm confidence in and love for the people, thus splendidly constructing the popular masses-centered socialism of our style. Our people's long-cherished, centuries-old aspirations are being brilliantly realized and a single-minded unity of the leader, the party, and the masses are being more firmly consolidated because politics of benevolence are carried out under the great party's leadership.

The popular masses' support for and confidence in our party are steadfast. All the people firmly believe through their daily experience that they can enjoy man's dignity and true life when relying on the tested leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. They are also upholding the party and the leader with firm faith and will.

Our party's politics is the most superb politics of benevolence for our people. Living in the society of our style of socialism where such politics are carried out is the greatest happiness for our people. Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and secretary, indicated:

The leader [suryong] regards the kindness, goodness, and virtue of our ancestors as the pride of the Korean nation and shaped the most excellent benevolent politics for our people.

Living in the people's true paradise ,where politics of benevolence is carried out, has been the working people's centuries-old long-cherished desire. We have a historical saying that the country should be ruled with benevolence. However, society has been by no means society ruled by benevolence and the ruler of exploiting society was not the personification of benevolence.

Carrying out politics of benevolence means regarding the people as the master of politics and administering the affairs of state with love for and trust in the people. Therefore, politics of benevolence cannot be carried out without eradicating exploitation and suppression of man by man.

Genuine politics of benevolence can be carried out only by the party and the leader who wholly assume responsibility for and lead the people's fate in the socialist society where the people are the country's master. The party of the working class in the socialist society is the ruling party, but the ruling party cannot carry out politics satisfying the popular masses' will when it considers the power omnipotent.

When one tries to rule the people with power, money, or material wealth, one cannot enlist the popular masses' support and confidence and cannot correctly lead the revolution and construction to give full play to their creative power.

Our glorious party is the great mother party which is wholly responsible for the people's fate and which carries out politics for the people. Whom is politics for? We can answer this question by clarifying the purpose and idea which politics pursues. The mission and purpose for struggle presented by our party are unthinkable apart from the popular masses' lofty aspiration. All the activities and struggle of our party are also unthinkable apart from the people's interest.

Our party's politics trusting and relying on the people is based on the chuche idea. The chuche idea elucidates the fundamental principles of revolution that the master of the revolution and construction is the popular masses and that the force which gives impetus to the revolution and construction is in the hands of the popular masses. The principle of revolution clarified by the chuche idea shows the way in which we are to regard the popular masses as the most valuable beings in the world, firmly trust them, and vigorously carry out the revolution and construction by rallying them behind the party and the leader.

Our party trusts the people and administers the affairs of state with love for the people because it makes the chuche idea the guideline for their activities. Our party's politics is politics of confidence in and love for the people.

South Korea

North Asks Trading Companies for Crude Oil

SK0402003293 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 3 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] Facing a serious energy crisis, North Korea is asking ROK general trading companies for crude oil. According to business circles on 3 February, North Korea has been making intensive efforts to solve its energy problems since the beginning of this year; however, results fall short of expectations due to a shortage of hard currency. It is proposing to ROK general trading companies, including Samsung, a barter system to exchange North Korea's zinc and steel with the ROK's crude oil.

A businessman said that "North Korea has been asking ROK general trading companies to supply it with crude oil since 1991, but its requests for crude oil have increased. However, ROK companies do not even consider this proposal because the government will not approve it."

Also, China's International Trade Research Institute said on 27 January that "North Korea has proposed trading via a barter system to the ROK's Samsung, Daewoo, Lucky-Goldstar and Hyundai. It proposed that these four ROK general trading companies supply North Korea with petroleum and crude oil in return for North Korea's zinc and steel."

This illustrates North Korea's aggravated energy problems. North Korea was supposed to import 1,000,000 tons of crude oil from Iran last year, but it could import only 320,000 tons due to a shortage of hard currency. In addition, North Korea has asked China for a loan to import crude oil, but has received no answer.

DPRK Proposes Building Telecom Center for Tumen Project

SK3001122593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0853 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—North Korea proposed Saturday to set up a telecommunications center to help lay the groundwork for the Tumen Economic Development Area (TEDA) project along the Tumen River bordering on North Korea, Russia and China.

In the final conference of the first telecommunications talks under the sponsorship of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) here, North Korea also expressed an intention to solve the issue of building a 30-circuit microwave communications network for a direct Seoul-Pyongyang telephone hook-up by the two Koreas as it is a mutual problem.

Choe Song-kuk, secretary-general of North Korea's External Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee, told the meeting that the issue of building a Seoul-Pyongyang direct telephone hook-up was "very desirable," adding, however, it should be dealt with mutually rather than multilaterally.

In addition, North Korea said it would discuss details about building the telecomunications networks with China in the future since both sides slightly differed on the work.

The two-day talks drew representatives from South and North Korea, Russia, China, Mongolia and the UNDP and discussed a variety of ways to facilitate the area into a nerve center for trade in Northeast Asia in the future.

Ministry Doubts Kunadze Visit Sparked DPRK-Russia Thaw

SK0402074593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0607 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (YONHAP)—Chances appear to be slim for Russia and North Korea to improve their relations following the recent visit to Pyongyang by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

Ministry officials said they based their assessment on the fact that both sides had publicly admitted there were differences of opinion on international issues during Kunadze's talks with North Korean officials.

The main purpose of Kunadze's visit was to revise the Russo-North Korean Friendship Treaty and adjust their relations, an action made necessary by the establishment of diplomatic ties between South Korea and Russia in 1990, the officials said.

The officials said they did not think that Kunadze met with North Korean President Kim Il-song, judging by exchanges of greetings on behalf of their leaders during his talks with North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam.

North Korea had not apparently made any clear response to the Russian proposal to revise the clause of the 1961 Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance, which calls for automatic Russian military intervention in the event North Korea is attacked, since Kunadze said he was waiting for a North Korean response, the officials said.

In an interview aired on Munhwa Broadcasting Co. (MBC) television Wednesday night, Kunadze said he did not believe North Korea currently possessed nuclear weapons.

But it is not important whether North Korea has, or has not, nuclear weapons, what is important is technical potentiality, he said.

Foreign Ministry Institute Views North-South Relations

SK0402095293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0926 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (YONHAP)—Inter-Korean nuclear problem can make a breakthrough only around middle of this year after the new Seoul and Washington governments officially draw up their positions, Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) predicted Thursday.

The critical factor to the breakthrough hinges on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s sampling and analysis of the fuel rod from North Korea's 5 megawatt nuclear reactor expected around March or April, the institute said.

The predictions, released through IFANS' regularly published analysis of major international issues, said suspicions against Pyongyang's nuclear development will mount to a new height if the sampling shows the rod was replaced after the reactor was put into operation in 1987.

North Korea will further lose grounds to refusing inter-Korean simultaneous nuclear inspection if such discovery is made by the IAEA, the institute said.

Pyongyang, however, is more likely to accept regular inter-Korean inspection, and only when there are signs of relations improvement with the United States and Japan, without opening up its military installations or acceping short-notice surprise inspections, it said.

On resumption of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, IFANS said the talks are likely to reopen after this year's Team Spirit exercises, a Seoul-Washington joint military maneuver, and after North Korean President Kim Il-song's birthday April 15.

But the talks may be further delayed if South and North Korea fail to resolve their confrontation over the nuclear problem, it said.

ICAO Investigators Arrive To Probe KAL Downing

SK0302085193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0748 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—A team of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) investigators arrived in Seoul on Wednesday [3 February] to probe the 1983 downing of Korean passenger plane over Russia. The five-member team, led by Caj Frostell, will have five days of meetings with Foreign and Transportation Ministry, and Korean Air officials.

All 269 passengers aboard KAL-007, including Japanese and Americans, died when a Soviet fighter jet shot it down. Moscow insisted the plane was on an espionage mission and claimed the fighter fired tracer bullets as a warning before the shootdown. The ICAO probe at the time was crippled because Moscow denied it had recovered the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder from the plane and refused entry to the investigation team. It admitted it had the recorders just last fall.

Russia turned over the tapes to the ICAO in December and the investigation team is touring all involved countries—South Korea, Japan, the United States and Russia—to gather additional materials. The ICAO officials are to brief the Foreign and Transportation Ministries and KAL Friday on the inspection's progress.

Meanwhile, representatives of victims' families from South Korea, Japan and the United States leave for Moscow later this week to discuss Russian compensation and building of memorial with officials there.

Russia To Cooperate in Agricultural Technology

SK0302025593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Suwon, South Korea, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia agreed to seek technological cooperation in agriculture Tuesday in talks between the Korea Rural Development Administration (RDA) and the Far Eastern branch of the Russian Academy of the Agricultural Sciences.

Cho Chae-yun, chief of the RDA crop experimental station, and R. B. Kondratyev, head of the Russian institute, signed the accord.

The RDA expects to collect cold-resistant varieties from Russia, and the two countries will undertake joint research in cultivation techniques and develop new varieties.

Japan To Join 44 Science, Technology Projects

SK0402013893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0032 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan have agreed on 44 new joint science and technology projects covering semiconductors, new materials and digital telecommunications, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday. The projects were selected from 61 proposed studies at a two-day science and technology cooperation committee meeting in Tokyo ending Wednesday, the officials said.

The committee was formed in 1988 to expedite Japan's technology transfer to Korea to even out their trade imbalance, which accounts for more than 90 percent of Seoul's trade deficit with the world. Semiconductors, new materials, genetic engineering and next generation digital telecommunications are key features of the projects, according to the officials. Seoul and Tokyo agreed to further discuss unselected projects at a committee meeting in January next year in Seoul, they said.

The two countries reviewed the 123 ongoing projects and concluded that 22 of them have been completed. They agreed to continue joint research on the remaining 101, the officials said.

No Tae-u Expects Change in 'Strained Relations' With North

SK0402105293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0945 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u expressed the conviction Thursday that despite the currently strained relations between South and North Korea, a change will come on the Korean peninsula before long for national integration. The president emphasized that one critical task facing Korea today is to attain unfication through reconciliation and cooperation between the two sides.

"I am quite certain that despite North Korea's rigid attitude, change will come on the Korean peninsula in the not too distant future," No said.

President No made the remarks in a table speech at a dinner he hosted at Chongwadae [presidential offices] for the members of the foreign diplomatic corps in Seoul.

No said that in light of the rapid global transformations, he doesn't believe North Korea alone can remain isolated behind closed doors.

Also reviewing the past five years of his office, President No who will leave the presidency late this month said that it was a period in which Korea's democracy has matured and is now able to withstand any challenges ahead.

"I believe the presidential election last December demonstrated to the world a new level of our democratic development," the president said.

Also in this period, Korea's diplomatic horizon could span the globe as the Northern diplomacy had progressed, and a significant progress has been made in inter-Korean relations as well, he said.

Official Says DPRK's Kim Yong-sun Replaced

SK0402090693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] According to a concerned government official, it is certain that Choe Tae-pok has replaced Kim Yong-sun as secretary in charge of international affairs of the Workers Party of North Korea. The official concerned stated that Choe Tae-pok, who was secretary in charge of education affairs of the party, played the role as secretary of international affairs of the party by meeting yesterday with Victor Chikin, chairman of the Party of Communists of the Byelarusian Republic.

Role in UN's Somalia Effort Seen as Obligation

SK3101010893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Korea's PKO Participation"]

[Text] The government reportedly has decided to actively participate in the United Nations peace-keeping operations (PKO) in Somalia, if so requested by the international organization. And it is beyond question that South Korea, as a viable member of the UN, should share the international burden of peacekeeping as long as the domestic situation permits.

The Seoul government has a precedent for such contributions when it sent an Army medical unit to the Middle East during the Gulf War. But the government seems to have yet to decide on the size and components of the Korean contingent and the time of its dispatch.

The nation's participation in the PKO activities is a fait accompli, as the government last September informed the UN that it could dispatch 730 soldiers, 154 medical personnel and 36 observers. But at that time, the place or the country to which they would be dispatched had not been decided.

With Somalia,, suffering from hunger and civil war, as the target country, Seoul needs to readjust the contribution plan in conjunction with the actual situation there. In any event, the dispatch of combat forces should be discouraged, especially in consideration of the internal security problem vis-a-vis North Korea.

Taking a long-term view, Korea must enhance its status in the world community and fulfill its UN obligations as one of the few states that owes its existence to the world body. At present, the Korean role in the UN operations in Somalia (UNOSOM) is necessary as well as opportune, seeing that the U.S.-led Operation Restore Hope is going to be replaced by the UN-sponsored peacekeeping operations sometime late next month.

CHOSON ILBO Opens Beijing Branch 3 Feb

SK0402124093 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] The CHOSON ILBO Beijing branch's opening ceremony was held at the CHOSON ILBO Beijing branch office on Jianguomen Wai Street, Beijing on 3 February. Attending the ceremony were No Chae-won, ROK ambassador to the PRC; Fan Huijuan, spokesman of the PRC Foreign Ministry; Li Yunfei, deputy director of the international department of the RENMIN RIBAO; reporters from Japan: representatives of ROK business firms in Beijing; An Pyong-hun, senior managing director of the CHOSON ILBO; and 50 other guests.

Senior Managing Director An Pyong-hun said at the ceremony: "The opening of the CHOSON ILBO Beijing branch carries a historical significance because

CHOSON ILBO has officially resumed its coverage in the PRC 70 years after it began coverage in the 1920's."

Following Senior Managing Director An's speech, ROK Ambassador to the PRC No Chae-won said: "I congratulate CHOSON ILBO—the first ROK newspaper to open a branch in Beijing—on making inroads into the PRC."

Spokesman Fan Huijuan who attended the ceremony on behalf of the PRC Foreign Ministry said: "With the establishment of the CHOSON ILBO Beijing branch, I hope that ROK-PRC media exchanges will increase." Li Yunfei, deputy director of the international department of RENMIN RIBAO, said: "I congratulate CHOSON ILBO—RENMIN RIBAO's sister newspaper—on officially opening its Beijing branch on behalf of Zhao Huaze, president of RENMIN RIBAO."

Party Floor Leaders Agree on Assembly Special Sessions

SK0402053293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Floor leaders of the three major parties have agreed to act on Assembly approval of the appointment of premier and chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection on the afternoon of the inauguration of Kim Yong-sam as president on Feb. 25.

They also agreed to convene another special session in April. However, they failed to resolve their differences over how long the upcoming special session beginning Feb. 9 will last and the agenda items to be discussed at the plenary session.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the United People's Party [UPP] wanted a 20-day session while the first opposition Democratic Party [DP] seeks a 25-day session.

The DP wants President-elect Kim Yong-sam to make his speech as the representative of the DLP at the plenary sitting, which the ruling DLP opposes.

The DP argued that the plenary session should last for six days for the interpellation of the administration on six agenda items including the economy, unification, national security, diplomacy, social and cultural problems. On top of this, the direction of the much touted reform plans of the ruling camp should also be tackled at the plenary session, it said.

However, the DLP and the UPP are of the opinion that four days of interpellation is more than enough. They said interpellation is not very practical citing that a new cabinet is to be formed with the inauguration of the new administration led by President-elect Kim.

At the floor leaders' meeting at the National Assembly, Rep. Yi Chol of the DP argued that the ruling camp's ideological smearing of its presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung should be thoroughly dealt with at the National Assembly.

UPP floor leader Rep. Kim Chong-nam pressed DLP floor leader Rep. Kim Yong-tae with what he claimed to be the oppression of the UPP. He was in a roundabout way taking issue with the move of prosecutors to indict UPP leader Chong Chu-yong for his alleged role in the diversion of the Hyundai business group's money to his presidential election campaign.

The floor leaders agreed to meet again to fix the length of the upcoming session along with the agenda items of the plenary session.

They agreed to set up a consultative panel at the National Assembly to work concertedly with the administration to cope with pressure to open up the domestic rice market through the Uruguay Round talks.

They also agreed to discuss revision of various election laws so that elections may not be influenced by the power of money. And the DP demands establishment of an ad hoc committee to revise laws which they termed undemocratic such as the National Security Law.

No Thanks National Assembly for Cooperation

SK0102124793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1033 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u thanked members of the National Assembly for their cooperation in the execution of state affairs during his presidency Monday. "Our politics should now enter a more concrete and practical stage and pay greater interest to substantial matters that are directly linked to national interests and the people's lives," the president said. No, whose term ends this month, made the remarks at a dinner he hosted at Chongwadae [presidential offices] for 100 assemblymen, including Vice speaker Hwang Nak-chu, and their spouses.

As the presidential election was over, efforts should be made to review election-related laws and repair defects that had emerged in the process of elections, he said. It was the second and last dinner for legislators. The first was Jan. 25. Both dinners were boycotted by members of the Democratic Party.

Chong Chu-yong Plans To Continue Political Career

SK0202080393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, leader of the United People's Party [UPP], said Tuesday he will continue his political career regardless of how a likely indictment against him on charges of election law violations and misuse of corporate funds turns out.

The tycoon-turned-politician affirmed his intention to scrap a promise to provide the UPP with 200 billion won to keep it going.

"I had thought of raising the 200 billion won for the party only if I won the presidential election," Chong told a press conference Tuesday morning, one day after he returned home from visits to the United States and Japan.

Commenting on possible charges of misusing corporate funds for his unsuccessful presidential bid, Chong said he would sell stock within a week to repay Hyundai Heavy Industries Co.

It wasn't clear, however, whether he could exonerate himself by paying back the money he misused during the election campaign.

Choe Su-il, president of Hyundai Heavy, and two other company officials are expected to be indicted on charges of funneling the corporate funds to Chong.

Chong said he did not believe the majority Democratic Liberal Party was putting pressure on the judicial branch of government to prosecute him.

As leader of an opposition party, Chong said, he "will not oppose (the government) for the sake of opposing."

Chong said he planned to operate the party by consensus since no big political events were in store. The party would contest two coming by-elections and select an executive chairman through free balloting at a party national convention, he said.

Democratic Party To 'Write in' Leaders in March Convention

SK0302040593 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] The opposition Democratic Party [DP] leaders have tentatively agreed that convention delegates will write in the names of the party representative and co-chairmen of their choice on a single ballot sheet in the upcoming national convention slated for March 11.

The party representative will hold the status of co-chairman and will represent the party while the executive power will lie in the meeting of the co-chairmen.

In a meeting at Seoul Garden Hotel, co-chairmen and representative chairman Yi Ki-taek concurred this is how things should be.

But the party decision may not be final as some co-chairmen still raise objections to the method. Reps. Kim Sang-hyon and Chong Tae- chol, both seeking the top post, didn't attend the meeting in a show of their disenchantment.

They want to form the new leadership by electing the co-chairmen first and then the representative chairman later from among the two co-chairmen who muster the most votes.

Rep. Yi Ki-taek has opposed their idea, apparently because there is no guarantee he can finish first or second. He also judges he stands a slim chance of winning the top post because his rival is likely to be supported by the majority "Sinmin" faction formerly led by Kim Tae-chung.

Yi has led the minor "Minju" faction since he merged his splinter party with Kim's group to form the present DP.

The party has been engrossed in intra-party haggling over the formation of the new leadership including the top party post vacated by former DP presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung.

Editorial Praises Clinton's North Korea Policy

SK0402090893 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 3 Feb 93 p 3

[Editorial: "North Korea Should Not Miscalculate the Strong Will of the ROK and the U.S. Against Its's Nuclear Development"]

[Text] The outline of U.S. President Bill Clinton's North Korean policy has begun to reveal itself earlier than expected, and it seems that he will take a tougher position against North Korea than former President Bush did. Immediately after his inauguration, President Clinton decided after discussions with the ROK Government to conduct the Team Spirit exercise so as to pressure North Korea into accepting the simultaneous inspection of nuclear facilities in the North and the South. In response to North Korea's refusal of nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], it is possible that he will bring North Korea's nuclear issue up before the UN Security Council.

The six rounds of nuclear inspections by the IAEA have served to heighten rather than dissipate suspicion of North Korea's nuclear development, as North Korea has strongly refused simultaneous inspection of its facilities with the South's nuclear facilities. In December 1992, they made a futile attempt to invite Russian nuclear experts. Recently, a Russian intelligence organization confirmed that North Korea was attempting to develop nuclear weapons. All of these facts confirm our suspicions of North Korea's nuclear development.

North Korea has refused an IAEA request to inspect, and even to visit two nuclear facility sites in Yonbyon, on the pretext that they are military bases bearing no relation to nuclear facilities. The DPRK ambassador to Russia warned that North Korea would not allow IAEA inspections because the United States and South Korea had decided to conduct the Team Spirit military exercise. This contradicts North Korea's earlier promise that the IAEA inspection team was permitted to visit any place they requested.

As THE NEW YORK TIMES noted, this is a test of the effectiveness of the IAEA and a challenge to the Bill Clinton government, which has placed the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction as a top priority issue on their agenda. Kim Il-song may follow the example of Iraq's Saddam Husayn by testing nuclear and other policies of the new Bill Clinton government toward the Korean peninsula.

To preclude North Korea's possible misunderstanding and expectations, the Clinton government is taking the same swift and tough steps against North Korea as it has taken against Saddam Husayn. Following the decision to conduct the Team Spirit exercise, it has called upon North Korea to accept the IAEA's mandatory inspection [kangje sachal]. The Clinton government is said to be considering placing North Korea's nuclear issue before the UN Security Council should North Korea reject this. The U.S. Government has refused to issue visas for the high-ranking North Korean parliamentarian delegation led by Kim Yong-sun, party secretary in charge of international affairs.

North Korea has obstinately refused to accept the simultaneous inspection of nuclear facilities in the North and the South, and has recently rejected a request by the IAEA to inspect its nuclear facilities on the grounds that the United States and South Korea decided to conduct the Team Spirit exercise. It has been noted that this may be part of the North Korean attempt to test the new Clinton government and to buy time for its nuclear development. This could also be North Korea's calculated attempt to hold out by all means until it can produce and hide one or two nuclear bombs. In either case, North Korea should realize that it is miscalculating.

In this respect, it is fortunate for us that the Clinton government has taken such a swift and firm step against North Korea, and we welcome it. In future, the new ROK and U.S. Governments should continue to work closely to respond firmly and swiftly. They should not be dragged around by North Korea any more. The ROK and the United States should move swiftly to solve this problem before we are faced with the unfortunate situation in which North Korea possesses a single nuclear bomb.

Communications Ministry Says U.S. To Urge Opening Market

SK0102083093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0746 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The United States is expected to urge South Korea to open its cordless communications market and reaward the second mobile telephone project during communications talks in Washington on Feb. 4-5, the Communciations Ministry said Monday. In the talks, both sides will check how much issues agreed on in last February's talks were carried out and discuss standards for communications equipment and means of mutual certification.

Yi Chong-sun, chief of the ministry's communications cooperation team, will head the nine-member Korean delegation and the U.S side will be led by Nancy Adams, former deputy assistant trade representative (USTR) for Asia and Pacific Affairs and Peter Collins in charge of Korean Affairs at USTR.

The U.S. representatives are certain to bring up the second mobile telephone project, bidding for which has to be started anew as the Sunkyong-led consortium Taehan Telecom gave up the project amid speculation of political favoritism. Sunkyong group chairman Chae Chong-hyon is related to President No Tae-u by marriage of their children.

U.S. partner GTE has called Sunkyong's voluntary repeal a violation of their joint-venture agreement and sought the U.S. Government's support for its claim.

"Because rebidding on the project has been passed to the next government, we have nothing to say to Washington regarding the issue," a ministry official said.

Since last year's Korea-U.S. communications talks, the United States has shown great interest in wireless telephone services in Korea apart from mobile phones such as the Trunk Radio System (TRS) and Personal Communication Service (PCS).

In a seminar on cordless communications technology, slated for Feb. 8, experts from the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will explain systems and laws on wireless communications technology and service.

Ground Broken for Satellite Telecommunications Site

SK0402035093 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Ground was broken yesterday for the construction of the primary ground control center in Yongin, Kyonggi Province, for Koreasat, Korea's first telecommunications satellite to be put into orbit in 1995.

President No Tae-u, along with Communications Minister Song On- chong and Korea Telecom president Yi Hae-uk and other officials, participated in the ground breaking ceremonies at the construction site, 49 km south of Seoul.

The 57.3 billion-won telecommunications center is scheduled to be completed by the end of next year, four months ahead of the scheduled launching of Koreasat, named Mugunghwa after Korea's national flower, Rose of Sharon.

Korea Telecom said the control center will cover an area of about 150,000 sq. meters. The one-story facility, which will also have a basement level, will have a floor space of about 6,100 sq. meters.

Telecom officials said they plan to complete the construction of the control center by March next year. Equipment and facilities, including those for satellite and network controls, computers and two satellite antennas, will be installed in the center by the end of next year.

The ground control center for Koreasat is being built under a contract with Matra Marconi of Britain.

Koreasat is scheduled to be put into orbit in April from Cape Canaveral, Fla., in the United States, and an identical backup satellite is to be launched in October the same year.

General Electric of the United States has been contracted by Korea Telecom to provide the satellite which will be put into orbit aboard a Delta II rocket of McDonnell Douglas.

Gross Foreign Debt Posts $2.59 Billion Increase

SK0102033093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0104 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea's gross foreign debt rose 2.59 billion U.S. dollars in the first 11 months of last year to 41.92 billion dollars, the Bank of Korea said Monday. The January-November growth compares with a rise of 7.6 billion dollars during the same period in 1991.

Short-term debt totaled 17.47 billion dollars as of November, while long-term debt was tallied at 24.45 billion dollars, a gross gain of 230 million dollars over a month earlier. Foreign assets rose 940 million dollars in November from the previous month to 30.58 billion dollars, which drew net external debt down to 11.34 billion dollars, off 710 million dollars.

The Bank of Korea said that the drop in net overseas debt was due to the faster growth in overseas assets than foreign debt. Last year's 2 billion-dollar rise in the inflow of foreign capital for stock purchases and improving black figures in the current accout balance were behind Korea's swelling overseas assets, the Central Bank said. Foreign funds for stock purchases on the Korean market soared 800 million dollars in last November.

Korea added 3.73 billion dollars to its foreign assets between January and November, cutting its net foreign debt by 1.14 billion dollars.

SRV Foreign Minister, Trade Minister Hold Talks

SK0402095793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0948 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (YONHAP)—Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su conferred with visiting Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Com Thursday on ways to promote bilateral trade cooperation. The two officials studied, among other matters, the issue of early conclusion of a trade agreement and a commercial arbitration agreement.

Minister Han stressed during the meeting that the two countries have unbounded potentials of mutual cooperation in view of the structural inter-complementarity of their economies, geographical proximity and historical similarity. Korea's exports to Vietnam reached 388 million dollars in the first 11 months of last year, up 121 percent over a year before.

India Places Antidumping Tariff on ROK's PVC

SK0402031393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0207 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (YONHAP)—India, in a preliminary ruling, recognized dumping charges against a South Korean petrochemical product last month, industry sources said Thursday. The Indian Commerce Ministry slapped an anti-dumping tariff of 1,700 rupiahs (57 U.S. dollars) a ton on PVC [polyvinyl chloride] from Korea on Dec. 18 in a preliminary ruling.

The United States, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina were also hit with countervailing tariffs, which are intended to protect Indian industry from foreign competition after production capacity was increased last year by expansion, the sources said.

The Indian Government was eyeing imposition of anti-dumping tariffs on Korean petrochemical imports such as high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP), and ending preferential tariff treatment for them, the sources said.

Korea, Brazil and Mexico enjoy the benefits of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) preferential tariff treatment from India, and pay 1,460 rupiahs a ton less than rivals such as the United States in tariffs.

"The loss of preferential treatment will be a harder blow to the Korean industry than anti-dumping tariffs on PVC exports," one industry source said. The sources said they feared U.S. exporters would make a foray deep into the Korean stronghold in the Indian market.

India is Korea's largest PVC market, taking 16 million dollars of PVC in January-November last year, or 22.2 percent of Korea's total PVC exports. In the same 11 months, Korea exported 124 million dollars of synthetic resin to India, or 8.4 percent of all such exports.

Government To Discourage Overseas Borrowing

SK0102130793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1206 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—Faced with a likely sharp increase in foreign exchange influx this year, the government is working on steps to discourage excessive borrowing from abroad and to better use flowed-in foreign exchanges [FX]. In a policy paper on foreign exchanges released Monday, the Finance Ministry said it would peg down excess foreign exchange supply to the 5 billion dollars level this year.

The ministry said the curbing of excess FX supply is needed as the excess supply is expected to increase sharply by 58.7 percent from 4.6. Billion dollars last year to 7.3 billion dollars this year.

It observed that excess supply would rise as current account deficits would be reduced to 3 billion dollars this year from 4.4 billion dollars last year, and the influx of foreign stock market fund would be about same as last year's 2.5 billion dollars.

The expected FX supply rise would also be contributed by expanded credit trading, increased ceiling of advance exports price receipt, and the permission of short-term borrowing by foreign investment firms.

The government fears that excess liquidity supply in the overseas sector would lead to an expanded money supply to the detriment of the stability of commodity and real estate prices. It is also feared to invite pressure from abroad for revaluation of the won currency in a circumstance where the country's international payments position remains in the red.

Ways under review to better use foreign exchanges would include positive support for overseas investment out of the government's foreign exchange holding and more prudence in deciding any additional expansion of the ceiling of foreigners' stock investment, according to the ministry paper.

Finance Ministry Studies Options To Attract Foreign Investors

SK3001041693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—The Finance Ministry has decided to consider advance notification of market opening for industries as a medium- and long-term measure to attract more foreign investment, ministry officials said Saturday.

The ministry also decided to gradually give local administrations the responsibility for authorizing foreign investment, and such positive incentives as lending foreign investors money or allowing them buy land for investment purposes.

A 1992 U.N. report on world trend of foreign investment says foreign advancement to developing countries continued to grow though investment by the advanced countries accounted for more than 80 percent of foreign investment in 1990.

Direct investment in Korea totaled 800 million U.S. dollars in 1990, compared with 1.3 billion dollars in Taiwan, 4.8 billion dollars in Singapore and 3.5 billion dollars in China.

Most Asian countries actively seek foreign investment to make them more prosperous, but Korea should concentrate on attracting more foreign investment in its technology-intensive industries, the ministry said.

Korea netted 234 investments worth 894.6 million dollars last year, down 18.5 percent in cases and 36 percent in sum over a year earlier.

Investment in the manufacturing industry totaled 647 million dollars (81 cases), down 39.5 percent from 1991's 1,069.2 million dollars (109) and investment in the service industry amounted to 245.3 million dollars (152), off 24.7 percent from 325.6 million dollars (178).

Foreign Investors Increase Stock Purchases

SK0102085393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—Optimistic foreign investors brought 476 million U.S. dollars (388.8 billion won) into South Korea for stock purchases in January, up 45 million dollars from the same month a year earlier, the Bank of Korea said Monday.

They also sent home 133 million dollars, compared with 34 million dollars in January a year earlier, the first month the market was open to foreign investment.

Last month's inflow was the largest since the stock market opened to foreigners and the outflow was second to 140 million dollars in November, a Central Bank spokesman said.

Many foreign investors who experienced the long slump last year were impatient, acting fast on recent price hikes and sending their profits abroad.

The outflow by foreign stock players totaled 660 million dollars last year, a monthly average of 55 million dollars.

The net inflow amounted to 2.07 billion dollars, with gross inflow and remittance reaching 2.73 billion dollars and 660 million dollars, respectively.

The Central Bank official predicted the inflow would at least pass 2 billion dollars on general expectations of a brisk market and extended investment ceiling for foreign stock players.

Foreigners are limited to 10 percent of an issue and their per capita ceiling is 3 percent. They are permitted to buy up to 8 percent of the national stocks Pohang Iron and Steel Co. and Korea Electric Power Corp.

Customs Revisions To Combat Intellectual Property Violations

SK0302043093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Feb 93 p 10

[Text] In a tangible war against piracy of intellectual property rights, Korea will add a new code to the existing Customs Law to crack down on counterfeit goods at the customs clearance wickets at airports and seaports.

The Ministry of Finance [MOF] said yesterday that the Korean Customs Administration will be given legal power to ban clearance of fake goods to and from Korea.

Goods with bogus trade marks and copy rights will be prevented from moving in and out of the customs clerance points, possibly from the second half of this year after the revision of the Customs Law at the National Assembly.

Under the current Customs Law, there is no legal code that empowers customs officers to attack fabricated goods at the customs clearance points. When customs officials find bogus goods at ports and airports, they have passively referred these illegal exporters and importers to the police for legal action.

Police, not customs officials, have occasionally traced distributors of bogus foreign goods at major distribution centers, including Itaewon and Namdaemun Wholesale Market as a cosmetic gesture to calm down international criticism, many foreign critics said.

But from the latter part of this year, the Korean Customs Administration will be given legal power to demand jail terms of up to five years or fines of 20 million won on traders who are seeking to export or import goods with bogus trade marks and copyrights, the MOF said.

Through institutional checking against illegal goods at the customs clearance points, the government can save administrative loss, it said. If bogus goods are checked at the customs clearance points, the government has no reason to allocate manpower to investigate traders of illegal products in major shopping centers here.

Furthermore, Korea can institutionally bar exports of bogus goods if such products are stopped from being exported at the customs clearance points, it said.

An MOF official said the revision of the Customs Law aimed at checking movement of imitate goods at the customs clearance stage, becomes necessary to diffuse trade tension with foreign partners, including the United States as well as to dispel what many foreigners claim is Korea's notorious image as a haven for phony goods.

He added as the world's tenth largest trading partner, Korea should join in a global move to protect intellectual property rights.

It is estimated that about 10 percent of traded products in international markets are fake. If the multilateral Uruguay Round trade negotiations are concluded, each nation is obligated to check imports and exports of bogus goods at customs clearance points.

Just one year ago, Hong Kong was most notorious for trading of counterfeit goods. But it dispelled such a bad international reputation after it empowered customs officials to crack down on bogus goods at the customs clearance stage, he noted.

To prevent "abuse of the new legal code," claimants should place cash or bonds as collateral with the customs office if they want to ask the customs office to hold back imported goods in question at bonded areas.

The customs office will use the collateral to compensate loss importers of authentic goods sustain due to false legal action by unethical claimants, the MOF said.

The MOF said unethical claimants may abuse the new legal code to prevent entry of authentic foreign goods by arguing that these goods are counterfeit.

As a further step to improve and modernize the existing customs clearance system, the MOF will revise the Customs Law to have "forwarders"—agents handling exports and imports of containerized cargoes—register themselves with the customs office.

The registration of forwarders will enable the customs office to better facilitate movement of goods in and out of Korea by managing forwarders, not making a item by item inspection of every containerized cargo, it said.

Government Sets Aside $1 Billion for 'Official Use' Exports

SK0302101093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0859 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has appropriated 1.08 billion U.S. dollars for the purchase of 3,430 foreign items, including 216 coaches for subway trains, for official use this year, up 472 million dollars over last year.

An informed source at the Office of Supply (OSROK) told YONHAP on Wednesday that 21 agencies and state-run corporations and 135 items had been added to the list this year.

The total climbs to 1.27 billion dollars if items under purchase plans carried over from last year are included, he said.

The office has decided to raise the share of Korean suppliers in the supply market from 47 percent to 50 percent by getting foreign bidders to expand joint ventures with them.

The source said that [illegible]23 million dollars will be allocated for purchases by 77 state-run institutions, 463 million dollars for 62 local autonomous institutions, 45.5 million dollars for five government-invested corporations and 458 million dollars for 37 others, including the Korea Mobile Telecommunication Corp.

Purchases by local administrations increased from 298 million dollars a year earlier as local autonomy is developing gradually together with a sharp increase in the purchase of transportation equipment to 458 million dollars from 86 million dollars last year.

The government will put up 748 million dollars, while borrowing 398.6 million dolars from Japan and 29.2 million dollars from the World Bank, the source added.

Exports to Taiwan Up 31.7 Percent

SK0102014693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0051 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—Exports to Taiwan surged 31.7 percent to 2,301 million U.S. dollars last year despite the severance of diplomatic ties in August, according to Taiwanese data. Imports from Taiwan fell 10.6 percent to 1,151 million dollars last year from 1991, giving Korea a trade surplus of 1,150 million dollars, up from 460 million dollars. The Taiwan Government figures were released here on Monday by the Trade and Industry Ministry.

According to the ministry's own tallies covering January-November last year, petrochemical exports hit 281 million dollars, up 122.5 percent from 1991, and steel sections hit 49 million dollars, up 231.7 percent. Semiconductors posted 338 million dollars, up 48.1 percent, automobiles marked 103 million dollars, up 28.5 percent, and fruit hit 23 million dollars, up 60.2 percent.

Taiwan's exports to North Korea in 1992, their first year, amounted to 1.9 million dollars. The items were bicycles, plastic products, transformers, glass products and transistors. Taiwan imported North Korean goods worth 4.8 million dollars and the main item was zinc.

Trade Ministry Reports Decrease in Exports

SK0102083193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0807 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—For the first time in three years, South Korean exports have dropped for three straight months, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Monday.

November exports were off 0.3 percent from a year earlier at 6,655 million U.S. dollars, December exports were down 7.6 percent at 7,114 million dollars, and last month's numbers slid 1 percent to 5,335 million dollars.

The last three consecutive months of decline were the same months: November 1989 to January 1990.

As of Jan. 20, arrivals of letters of credit had reached 2,569 million dollars, off 0.4 percent, so a recovery is unlikely, a ministry spokesman said.

He also noted that January had three less working days than the same month last year due to the lunar new year's holidays with the cost to exports estimated at 600 million dollars.

Adjusting January's figures to account for the holidays, exports rose around 10 percent, the official said.

In the first quarter of the year, exports will reach 17.8 billion dollars, up 5 percent, and imports 20 billion dollars, down 4.4 percent, for a 2.2 billion-dollar trade deficit, he predicted.

Ministry Targets Increased Construction Volume Abroad

SK0302032493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0156 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—The government will try to enliven overseas construction by means of tax benefits and diplomacy, Construction Minister So Yongtaek said Wednesday.

Two construction attaches will be posted to China in the first half of the year as part of an effort to boost diplomacy in major potential markets, So said.

The Construction Ministry is discussing the issue with the Foreign Ministry, he said, and is considering signing memorandums on construction cooperation with Southeast Asian countries and Mexico.

So, meeting with representatives of the 31 largest overseas construction firms, including Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co., Dong-ah Construction Industrial Co. and Daewoo Corp., to outline plans for a construction take-off this year, projected contracts in China at 100 billion U.S. dollars a year in 1993-95.

The government would relax regulations on procurement and development of real estate abroad by contractors, allowed for the first time last year, he said.

Construction companies would be able to purchase and develop the land for commercial and residential buildings, he said.

Income tax deductions for employees at overseas construction sites will be raised to 1.5 million won from 500,000 won.

So asked the construction leaders to continue their diplomatic efforts in unexplored markets such as China, Vietnam and Mexico, and form joint ventures in foreign markets.

Reportage on Kim Yong-sam Transition Planning

To Require Cabinet Financial Disclosures

SK3001030793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam, in an effort to keep his administration free of corruption, has decided to require his cabinet ministers and vice ministers disclose their private assets, the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] said Saturday.

Kim recognizes the need for revising the law on the ethical conduct of civil servants if he is to require government officials to make their private assets public, but because not enough time is available until his inauguration as president on Feb. 25, Kim has decided to ask at least his cabinet ministers and vice ministers to disclose their assets and those of their wives and other family members.

To that end, Kim has instructed the DLP policy committee to work out the necessary measures to legally accommodate his decision, said a source, who declined to be identified by name.

The DLP hopes to revise the law on ethical conduct of public officials and table it to the National Assembly after the Kim administration is launched, he said.

Citing a Korean adage that water upstream should be clean in order to have cleaner downstream, Kim plans to campaign for a corruption-free top echelon of government, the source said.

In addition to cabinet ministers and vice ministers, the DLP is studying the possibility of making other government officials such as heads of the national tax and customs administrations and the chiefs of police do the same, he said.

Seeks Kwangju Reconciliation

SK0402013093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0028 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam, in a bid to bring about genuine national reconciliation, is working to resolve pending issues related to the May 18, 1980, civil uprising in Kwangju, his aides said Thursday. Thousands of students and other citizens demonstrated in Kwangju, South Cholla Province, May 18-27, 1980, calling for the lifting of martial law and the release of dissident leader Kim Tae-chung. Martial law troops subsequently opened fire, killing numerous protesters. The exact number of victims isn't clear, ranging from thousands reported by the families of victims to less than 200 in some government tallies.

The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and Kim's government transition team are considering paying compensation to the families of the victims based on reports from the association of the bereaved families, the Kwangju City Council, the city of Kwangju and the provincial government, sources said. Kim hopes to take action right after his inauguration on Feb. 25, the sources said.

As for the question of finding those responsible for giving the troops the order to open fire and other problems that could not be cleared up immediately, the DLP and the transition team are trying to find solutions in stages after studying various opinions and evidence.

In addition to these actions, Kim plans to visit Kwangju shortly after his inauguration and pay respects to the dead at the Mangwol-tong Cemetery, where most of the victims of the shooting were buried.

Having been an opposition leader at the time, Kim is expected to propose national reconciliation from that position that he too was a victim of the military suppression at that time, according to his aides.

Kim's Kwangju visit is tentatively set for mid-March, timed with the inauguration of the Kwangju Science and Technology Center, the aides said.

To Speed Government Reorganization

SK0102024093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0059 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam had planned to reorganize his administration in about a year following its inauguration, but has decided to shorten the time as much as possible, his aides said Monday.

Kim had decided that reorganization of his administration was essential and urgent if he were to carry out reform programs and to show his determination to implement reforms, the aides said. Kim recently formed a team that includes Hwang In-song, the Democratic Liberal Party's policymaker, and Kim Chung-wi, presidential aide for political affairs, that is working out reorganization plans based on advice from specialists, the aides said.

Formation of a proposed corruption prevention committee, for instance, is expected to be carried out in March, instead of May as had been planned, the aides said.

Kim also wants to require cabinet ministers and vice ministers, their spouses, and direct relatives to disclose their assets before the government revises the law concerning ethical conduct of civil servants, they said.

If the government reorganization plans are ready before his inauguration, Kim will call an extraordinary session of the National Assembly in the first half of this year to revise the laws if necessary.

Among the targets for reorganization is transfer of budgetary work currently being done by the Economic Planning Board (EPB) to the presidential office in Chongwadae. The EPB, instead, would be strengthened in its function as a coordinator for the formation of various economic policies.

The team is also studying the possibility of expanding the trade and Industry Ministry to bring all trade matters under its jurisdiction. They are currently handled by various ministries, including the Foreign Ministry, the aides said.

Meets Swedish Defense Minister, German Envoy

SK0402070193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0550 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korean President-elect Kim Yong-sam stressed Thursday that North Korea's nuclear weapons development program was detrimental to peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the entire Asia-Pacific region, and was a stumbling block to substantial improvements in inter-Korean ties. Kim, receiving a courtesy call by Swedish Defense Minister Anders Bjorck, called on Stockholm to continue to support international efforts to persuade North Korea to give up the program.

The next president said that international pressure and persuasion through not only the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) but others also was important to have the North abandon the scheme.

Later in the morning, meeting German Ambassador Dieter Siemens at his office, Kim said Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Seoul, scheduled for March 1, was meaningful in that it would be the first for a German chancellor. He said he hoped that the two countries could make the occasion momentum for promoting bilateral relations in every sphere.

PRC Threatening To Overtake Domestic Shipbuilding

SK3001014793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0106 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—China is threatening to bump South Korea from second place in the world shipbuilding rankings, the Korea Shipbuilders' Association (KSA) said Saturday.

Chinese yards boosted their shipbuilding contracts 166.7 percent to 1.6 million tons in 1992, just 40,000 tons shy of Korean yards, and almost half were domestic orders fueled by a boom in external trade.

It is likely that China will overtake Korea because it is less affected by the global slump than Korea, which depends heavily on foreign contracts.

China built 1.1 million tons of ships last year, 2.5 times as much as in 1991, with 590,000 tons for foreign buyers, according to KSA. It repaired 238 foreign ships last year, a job Korea stopped long ago.

Germany and Spain are competing with China for third place. Japan is the world's No. 1 shipbuilder.

A KSA official said that China was still behind Korea in terms of technology, but might catch up before the turn of this century given the increasing domestic demand caused by its rapid economic growth.

Korean yards won 1.64 million tons of orders last year, down 70 percent from a year earlier, but built 4.9 million tons of ships thanks to orders in preceding years.

ROK Buys 3.2 Tons of North Korean Gold in 1992

SK3001011093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0031 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan 30 (YONHAP)—Despite a setback in trade and personnel exchanges between South and North Korea, more than three tons of gold flowed into the South from the North last year, government and industry sources said Saturday.

A total of 3,171 kilograms of North Korean gold was bought by Samsung Co. and Lucky-Goldstar International Corp., mainly through intermediaries in Hong Kong and Beijing.

The figure represents an increase of about 1 ton from 1991, when South Korea started buying North Korean gold, the sources said.

North Korean gold is in the form of ingots, each weighing 12.5 kilograms. The ingots are stamped "Choson Pyongyang" and they are being sold wholesale at 118 million won (about 148,800 U.S. dollars) each. Annual domestic demand for gold in South Korea is estimated at about 80 tons, of which about 70 tons are believed to be smuggled in and 10 tons legally acquired, the sources said.

Of the 10 tons, 6 tons were produced by Lucky Metals Corp. and about 1 ton was imported from Australia, Switzerland, China and other countries. The estimated 3.2 tons of North Korean gold that arrrived last year had a considerable influence on the domestic gold market, the sources said.

North Korean gold, which is traded in the London metal exchange and therefore is internationally recognized, was bought 60 percent by Samsung Co. and 40 percent by Lucky Goldstar International Corp.

Government Allows Holiday Import of DPRK Walnuts

SK0402130793 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 4 Feb 93 p 11

[Text] To mark the occasion of 15 January on the lunar calendar, the ROK will bring in a large quantity of North Korean walnuts.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries revealed on 3 February that currently 553 tons of North Korean walnuts are going through customs formalities at Inchon port.

These walnuts were directly transported from North Korea to Inchon port in January. Four companies including the Lotte Trading Company Incorporated negotiated with the North Korean side and brought in these walnuts.

The Lotte Trading Company Incorporated brought in 200 tons of walnuts; the Sorim Tuksu Sales Company 148.2 tons; Songbo Industry 110.8 tons; and Kumho Incorporated 94.1 tons. It was learned that walnuts brought in by the Lotte Trading Company Incorporated and Songbo Industry were directly brought in on 14 January by the Danish ship (Aktismun), which shipped 1,000 tons of ROK-produced garlic to North Korea on 11 January. The Inchon customs and the quarantine station of vegetables inspected the walnuts' place of origin. They also wanted to see if there were any damage caused by blight or harmful insects. As a result, its place of origin was confirmed as North Korea. These walnuts are to be cleared by customs soon. The walnuts amounting to 553 tons which were brought in last month to Inchon port are 5.7 times more than the amount of walnuts imported during the same time last year.

In 1991, 297 tons of North Korean walnuts were brought in and in 1992, 1,020 tons were imported. More than 90 percent of the imported walnuts are from North Korea. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries revealed that to prevent damage by blight and harmful insects, walnuts can be imported only from North Korea, Japan, and Vietnam.

Walnuts from China and the United States are currently prohibited because of quarantine reasons.

Board Permits Import of DPRK Ginseng, Tobacco

SK3001015693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0139 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—North Korean ginseng and leaf tobacco could enter South Korea this year, and ginseng growers here are up in arms.

The National Unification Board gave the Korean Ginseng and Tobacco Corp. permission in December to introduce North Korean leaf tobacco.

On Jan. 14, the board gave Ilhwa Co., an affiliate of the Tongil Business Group, permission to contact North Koreans to buy raw North Korean ginseng, Finance Ministry and Federation of Ginseng Growers Cooperatives officials said Saturday.

The Tobacco and Ginseng Corp. is expected to negotiate with a North Korean agent in Hong Kong for the purchase of tobacco. The ministry officials said the corporation uses 85,000 tons of tobacco a year, of which 17,000 tons or 20 percent is imported.

North Korean tobacco is of relatively low quality, but this doesn't matter because South Korea uses low-quality tobacco as well, they said.

The federation officials said the unification board should revoke Ilhwa's permit because it did not take into account the interests of ginseng farmers.

South Korea's 200,000 ginseng growers already suffered from rising wages and increases in production costs, they said. The smuggling of low-priced, low-quality Chinese ginseng since last year was another blow to domestic growers.

A Finance Ministry official echoed his view. He said Ilhwa hoped to buy four-year-old roots, used mostly in making ginseng tea, which is produced in Korea in large amounts.

"The purchase of North Korean ginseng at this stage is prone to undermine the ginseng marketing order in the country," he said.

Reflecting the difficulties facing ginseng growers, the acreage given over to ginseng declined 13.3 percent from 4,152 hectares in 1988 to 3,600 hectares last year, while ginseng production slid 1.4 percent to 14,623 tons from 14,834 tons in the same period.

Dried raw ginseng presently sells at 21,000 won (26.4 U.S. dollars) per 600 grams, a decline of 25.3 percent from 1991 when it was 28,100 won.

Inter-Korean Commodity Shipment at 'Standstill'

SK3001041793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—Inter-Korean commodity shipments have come to a standstill, except for a trickle of gold ingots reaching the South through third countries, a source in the maritime transportation industry said Saturday.

Commodity exchanges started to decline in September, when a large North Korean espionage ring was uncovered.

The last shipment was 1,000 tons of South Korean garlic in November in exchange for red beans and other farm goods.

The situation was different this time last year, when shipping firms enjoyed brisk business thanks to heavy inter-Korean volume.

South Korean conglomerates are busy seeking freighters to bring in North Korean zinc ingots and other mineral products and ship to the North large amounts of sugar, sweets and television sets to be distributed to the North Korean people on Kim Chong-il's birthday in February and Kim Il-song's in April.

North Korean gold ingots arrive steadily, but are so small in amount they have no significant impact on freight volume.

In contrast, North Korea is importing large amounts of power generating plant from France and other European countries, the source said.

Cheju Island Asks Ministry To Intervene Against PRC Fishings

SK3001030893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0223 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Cheju, South Korea, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—The provincial government of Cheju Island has asked the National Fisheries Administration to stop Chinese boats from fishing in a no-fishing area outside Korean territorial waters, a Cheju government official said Saturday.

Some 100 Chinese ships appear in January-April every year and fish in the internationally established finny tribe preservation and no drag-net fishing areas near Cheju Island, he said.

The Chinese boats even encroach into the local communal fishing zones, depleting fish stocks and polluting the waters with their waste, he said.

Korean ships are banned from the two areas, but there is no way to keep the Chinese boats out, the official said, and Cheju's small fishing guidance ships have difficulty keeping the areas free of poachers.

So the provincial government had asked the central government to find a way to stop the Chinese boats from fishing in the no-fishing zones, he added.

Burma

PRC's Qian Qichen Meets With U Ohn Gyaw

BK0302143393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Qian Qichen, member of the State Council and minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of China, and delegation, accompanied by Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw left Yangon [Rangoon] by special aircraft yesterday afternoon and arrived at Arakan State's Sandoway airport at 1330

Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw and party held talks with Mr. Qian Qichen and delegation at the Wela Hall of Annawa Yeiktha House at 1830 in the evening.

Also present at the meeting were Brigadier General Win Myint, chairman of Arakan State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of Western Military Command, responsible personnel, and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Liang Feng.

Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw hosted a dinner in honor of PRC Foreign Minister Mr. Qian Qichen and party at the Annawa Yeiktha House in the evening. The guests were also entertained to a cultural variety show.

It has been learned that the visiting foreign minister and his entourage left Sandoway this morning and arrived in Yangon at 1000.

Ends Goodwill Visit, Departs

BK0302142193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Qian Qichen, member of the State Council and minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of China, and delegation, who were in Myanmar [Burma] on a goodwill visit, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air at 1330 this afternoon.

Mr. Qian Qichen and delegation were seen off at Yangon airport by Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; Rear Admiral Than Nyunt, minister of health; Maj. Gen. Thein Win, minister of transport; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, minister of religious affairs and Yangon military command commander; Brigadier General Abel, minister of planning and finance; Brig. Gen. Myo Thant, minister of information; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; U Tin Aung Tun, Myanmar [Burmese] Ambassador to the PRC, and responsible personnel; Mr. Liang Feng, ambassador of the PRC, and embassy officials.

Delegates Hold 2d Day of Panel Discussion

BK0402040393 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Panel discussions by eight groups of delegates to the National Convention continued in the respective meeting halls this morning in the Kyaikkasan Grounds, Yangon [Rangoon].

The delegates discussed chapter headings which should be included in the state constitution during their discussions.

The panel discussion of delegates from the political parties was held in Meeting Room No. 5 at 0900 this morning. It was presided over by the alternate chairman, U Thazan Hla from the National League for Democracy, while U Zeya acted as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates discussed the chapter headings that should be included in the constitution: U Yaw Aye Hla, Lahu National Development Party; U Khin Maung Aye, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party; U Maw Koe alias U Sai Long, Wa National Development Party; U Ti Hkun Kyin alias U Ti Jong Gan, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party. The meeting ended at 0930 in the morning.

The panel discussion of the elected representatives was held at 1000 this morning in Meeting Room No. 4. The panel was presided over by U Daniel Aung from the Lahu National Development Party with U Myo Nyunt acting as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates took part in the discussions: U Yankyin Maw, Kunlong constituency, Shan State; U San Tha Aung, Kyauktaw constituency-2, Rakhine State, Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization; and elected independent representatives—U Khin Maung Cho [from the deregistered Kayah State Nationalities League for Democracy according to bureau file], Dimawhso constituency-1, Kayah State; Dr. Hmu Tang, Thangtlang, Chin State; U Tun Kyaw [from the deregistered Ta-ang Palaung National League for Democracy], Namhsan, Shan State; U Htaung Kho Htan [from the deregistered United Nationalities League for Democracy], Tamu, Sagaing Division; U Hla Maung [from the deregistered Patriotic Old Comrades League], Kya-in Seikkyi constituency-1, Karen State; U Aung Thein [from the deregistered Union Nationals Democracy Party], Ywangan, Shan State—and U Khun Tun U, representatives of political parties [as heard] and the elected representative of Hsipaw constituency-1, Shan State.

The meeting ended at 1310.

The panel discussion of the delegates of national races was held in Meeting Hall No. 1 at 1000. It was presided over by U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division with U San Tun acting as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates representing states and divisions took part in the discussion: U Kyaw Soe Lay alias U Tin Soe, Mohnyin, Kachin State; U Kyaw Din alias U Htay Rai, Loikaw, Kayah State; U Daniel Sin Po, Kawkareik, Karen State; U Han Rin, Thangtlang, Chin State; U Mya Thaung, Shwebo, Sagaing Division; U Than Swe, Tavoy, Tenasserim Division; U Tin Hlaing, Natalin, Pegu Division; U Nyan Lin, Magwe, Magwe Division; Dr. Win Tint, Tatkon, Mandalay Division; U Tin U, Moulmein, Mon State; Myebon, U Tun Lu, Rakhine State; U Than Tun, Mayangon, Yangon Division; U Hkun Kyaw Thu, Kalaw, Shan State; and U Ohn Maung, Nyaungdon, Irrawaddy Division.

The following delegates also participated: U Sai Paung Natt, Lashio, Shan State; U Khin Aung alias U Kyaw Win, Mandalay Southwest Township, Mandalay Division; U Hkaw La Saw, Leshi, Sagaing Division; U Nu Maung, Namhsan, Shan State; and U Aung Lin, Myitha, Mandalay Division. The meeting ended at 1120.

The panel discussion of peasants' delegates was held in Meeting Hall No. 7 at 0945. It was presided over by the alternate chairman, U Thein Lwin of Irrawaddy Division while U Thant Zin acted as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates participated in the discussion: U Than Maung, Kanbalu, Sagaing Division; U Htein Lin, Kawthaung, Tenasserim Division; U Tin Myint, Waw, Pegu Division; U Mya Aye, Kayan, Yangon Division; U Chit Shwe, Pagan Nyaung-u, Mandalay Division; U Tun U, North Okkalapa, Yangon Division; U Aung Myint, Bassein West Township, Irrawaddy Division; U Mya Maung, Ngape, Magwe Division; U San Pi, Haka, Chin Division; U Kyaw Nyein, Kalaw, Shan State; and U Tin Maung Kyaw, Yesagyo, Magwe Division.

The meeting ended at 1310.

The panel discussion of workers' delegates was held in the Meeting Hall No. 6 at 1230. The meeting was presided over by U Shwe Than of Yangon Division with U Kyaw Zaw Naing acting as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates participated in the discussions: U Than Myint, New Dagon South Township, Yangon Division; U Sein Nyunt, Mingala Taungnyunt, Yangon Division; U Aung Mun, Lewe, Mandalay Division; U Kyaw Nyein, Minhla, Magwe Division; Daw Aye Kyi, Sagaing, Sagaing Division; U Kyaw Win Tun, Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Division; U Hsun Lut Naw, Myitkyina, Kachin State; U Ke Kwee Chaein, Mindat, Chin State; U Sein Nyo, Pabedan, Yangon Division; Dr. Myo Thant Tin, Ahlone, Yangon Division; U Bo Thein, Keng Tung, Shan State; and U Tha Aye, Ramree, Rakhine State.

The meeting ended at 1400.

The panel discussion of delegates representing members of the intelligentsia and technocrats was held at 1000 this morning in the Meeting Hall No. 3. The meeting was presided over by the alternate chairman, U Tin Mun, with U Kyaw Sein acting as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates participated in the discussions: U Myat Thu, writer; Daw Po, professor of Burmese language; Dr. Mya U, rector; Daw Khin Mi Mi Tun, registrar; U Thein U Po Saw, nuclear scientist; U Khin Soe, legal expert; U Soe Myint, deputy director general; U Thein Naing, professor of history; Dr. Ko Lay, director general; Dr. Tha Hla Shwe, rector; U Han Tin, rector; Dr. Than Htike, director general; Accordion Ohn Kyaw [musician]; U Min Naing, artist; and U Zaw Myint Pe, director.

The meeting ended at 1610.

The panel discussion of representatives of public service personnel was held at 0930 this morning in the Meeting Hall No. 8. The meeting was presided over by the alternate chairman, U Tun Shwe, with U Hla Win acting as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates participated in the discussions: U Ko Ko Gyi, Office of the President; U Than Aung, Ministry of Energy; U Tun Aung, Ministry of Construction; U Myat Thin, Ministry of Forestry; U Aung Min, Yangon City Development Committee; and Dr. Kyaw Win, Minsitry of Health.

The meeting ended at 1330.

The panel discussion of special invitees was held in the Meeting Hall No. 2 at 1000 this morning. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Maung Maung Sein, consultant to the Ministry of Health, with U Soe Lwin acting as secretary of the meeting. The following persons participated in the discussions: U Chao Ngi Lai, Shan North Region No. 2; U Yan Kyar Kwei alias U Khin Maung San, Shan North Region No. 1; U Min Eng, Shan East Region No. 4; U Pe Htin, Shan North Region No. 3; and U Aik Moe Moe, Shan North Region No. 7.

The meeting ended at 1310.

It has been learned that the panel discussion by groups of delegates to the National Convention will continue tomorrow, 4 February.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Clinton Urged To Pay Attention to GATT

BK0402055993 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0431 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] London, Feb. 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The American economy would go haywire if President Clinton did not work towards the conclusion of the current Uruguay Rounds of GATT negotiations and concentrated on his own problems of domestic economy instead, Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said.

Rafidah, who was on a stopover here after attending the World Economic Conference in Davos, Switzerland, said Clinton had better be interested in seeing the GATT or the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations through as the United States not only buys, but also sells goods to other countries.

The minister's comments came in the wake of the U.S. punitive restrictions against certain goods from EC countries which commentators here said could lead to a trade war.

Speaking to Malaysian reporters here Wednesday, the minister expressed concern that the Clinton government had not yet given authorization to negotiators in the current GATT negotiations but had instead taken unilateral actions against countries.

For the first time, she said, GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel had expressed pessimism to her in Davos over the current rounds of talks which had to meet the U.S. Congress' "fast track" deadline in March.

"But trade [word indistinct] to go on in the meantime, and we have warned Malaysians who trade with the United States to be very careful about rules and regulations.

"In Malaysia, we are not in favour of any export subsidy which the United States can look at as a trade bounty," she said.

Defense Minister Comments on Deployments to Cambodia, Somalia

BK0402053693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0440 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The decision on sending another Army battalion to replace the contingent serving as United Nations peacekeepers in Cambodia will depend on the duration of the world body's mandate to oversee the peace process, Defence Minister Najib Razak said Wednesday.

A replacement battalion has been placed on standby for duties in Cambodia but it would depend on the requirements of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), he added.

Another battalion would probably be sent for peacekeeping duties to relieve the present battalion if UNTAC's stay in Cambodia was lengthened due to the problems there, he told reporters at a Chinese New Year lunch here.

There are at present about 890 Malaysian troops based in western Battambang Province in Cambodia where UN-sponsored elections are due in May this year but the communist Khmer Rouge faction has refused to cooperate with UN forces.

Najib said his ministry was also awaiting the green light to send a battalion each to Somalia and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Rulers' Allegations of Humiliation Rejected

BK0302150193 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 30 Jan 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Who Has Really Insulted the Rulers?"]

[Text] Indeed, there will be a great danger if a leader allows another person to influence his thoughts either through advice or writings. However, there will be even greater consequences if a person arbitrarily proclaims himself a spokesman for other persons whose thoughts and character may be unknown. This situation was indeed clearly evident in a speech by the Sultan of Kelantan at a people's dinner at Balai Besar Palace in Kota Baharu yesterday. In his speech, he was trying to play the role of a spokesman for the Malay rulers and to explain their views on the issue of constitutional amendments.

In the speech, the Sultan of Kelantan said that "the Malay rulers are aware that they are also sons of Adam who are not above sin and error and who will be subject to punishment by God on judgment day." He also said that the Malay rulers' unanimous rejection of the amendments in no way implied that they wanted to be placed above the Constitution or law or to make themselves immune to all sins and errors. For us, the Sultan of Kelantan had at this stage exposed himself to criticism. The question is: Why have the rulers continued to resist efforts to place them on an equal level with the people before the law if they are aware that they are not immune to sins and have no intention of overriding the law?

In fact, the Sultan of Kelantan's tactics and logic are wrong. We believe that the speech was simply a ploy to gain public sympathy for the rulers who were allegedly being insulted and humiliated by the mass media in regard to the constitutional amendments. For this reason, he proposed that there be a bridge of understanding for the sake of the people's calm and peace based on the principles of good manners and mutual respect. Had the argument come from the bottom of his heart, he would have shown respect for the other rulers by not announcing the rejection of the proposed constitutional amendments ahead of the Conference of Rulers. How could there be good manners and mutual respect among the rulers, people, and mass media if he shows he has no respect for the other rulers?

In addition, we find it strange that the Malay rulers should feel humiliated if they believed that what was reported by the mass media was not true. If the reports proved to be untrue and insulted them, why should they have allowed themselves to be treated that way? Legal action could be taken. Do the rulers find themselves in an awkward position to ask for legal protection because they feel that they are above the law? Do they think that they will place themselves on a par with the people if they refer to the law to restore their reputation? Perhaps, the rulers are worried that by so doing, they will automatically acknowledge that they should not be above the law in order to get legal protection and should accordingly consent to the constitutional amendments.

The question is: Have they really been insulted? If so, why should this have happened? Who has really insulted them? They apparently believe that the proposal was made by politicians and not many people supported it.

However, we think that the rulers failed to understand how happy the people were on 17 January upon learning the news that the rulers would agree with the proposed amendments after talks with the prime minister. However, the rulers unanimously rejected the proposal the next day before the House of Representatives convened its session. The bridge of understanding has long existed among the rulers, government, and people. The responsible mass media mended this intimate relationship to the effect that the rulers decided to reject the people's request that the unfair Constitution be revised. [sentence as published]

Drive To Scrap Royal Immunity Said Successful

BK0302114793 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Mon.—The government's move to abolish the immunity of the Malay rulers in their personal capacity has already achieved its objective, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

He said one outcome of the move to amend the Federal Constitution was that the rulers had stopped making unreasonable demands and were abiding by the law.

The rulers have already ceased making demands for land and expenditure outside scheduled and budgeted allocations.

"We have achieved our objective. As far as we are concerned, the issue of the amendments has been resolved and there is no constitutional crisis whatsoever," he told reporters after launching the National Agriculture Policy 1992-2010 at the Putera World Trade Centre.

Asked to elaborate on his view that the matter had been resolved, Dr. Mahathir said that if the king did not assent to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1993, it would again be submitted to both houses of Parliament for debate and subsequent approval. This was provided for in the Constitution.

"After approval by both houses, it will then be sent to the king and if the assent is still not given, the bill becomes law after 30 days.

"We are in no hurry. As far as we are concerned, we have achieved our objective as it will be a matter of time before the bill becomes law.

"According to the Constitution, a reasonable time frame is given for the King to assent to bills approved by the Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] and Dewan Negara [Senate]," he said.

The Dewan Rakyat approved the bill on Jan 19 and the Dewan Negara the next day.

Dr. Mahathir said the government had been unhappy with demands for land and additional expenditure by the rulers.

"Now they have stopped such abuses and when the bill takes effect, appropriate action will be taken against anyone who takes the law into his own hands like assaulting people."

Asked whether the people would still have to adhere to traditions such as bowing when greeting the rulers, Mahathir said such gestures were inappropriate in modern times.

"Some rulers have said that there is no need to even use the words duli yang maha mulia [his majesty] when addressing the royalty," he said.

Cambodia

General Urges KR Ouster From UN Commission

BK0402112593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 3 Feb 93

["1 February letter from General Ke Kimyan, chairman of the State of Cambodia Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations, to Mr. John Sanderson, commander of the forces of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia"—read by announcer]

[Text] To: Major General John Sanderson, commander of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces

Subject: The Presence of Khmer Rouge [KR] officers of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] in the Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations [CCMAUN] and in provinces controlled by the State of Cambodia [SOC] side in the current situation where the PDK is seriously threatening the peace process and the survival of the Cambodian people

First of all, on behalf of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF], I would like to respectfully express my deepest and warmest thanks to you and your aides who have fully exerted tenacious moral and physical strength to successfully implement the UNTAC mandate as stipulated in the Paris accord. This is aimed at bringing about durable security and peace for our Cambodian motherland and people.

As you know, with goodwill and sincerity in the quest for peace and national reunification in Cambodia in order to create favorable conditions for the Cambodian people to decide their destiny themselves through free and correct elections, the SOC side in general and the CPAF in particular have dedicated attention to scrupulously and perfectly abiding by the Paris 23 October 1991 peace accord. As a matter of fact, for more than one year, the

SOC side's armed forces have closely collaborated with UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] and UNTAC on full and correct implementation of the accord: They have observed the volunteer cease-fire and allowed the installation of other parties' liaison officers, the setting up of observation posts along borders, the deployment of UNTAC military forces in the SOC-controlled regions, the putting up of warning signs, mine-clearing operations, the regrouping of troops in cantonments, and disarmament. And they have voluntarily authorized a number of troops to temporarily return to civilian life as well.

However, what is most regrettable is that although being a signatory to the accord, the Khmer Rouge's PDK has not only not implemented the accord, but has also committed truce violations by flagrantly launching military attacks on the SOC side. This constitutes a serious and dangerous threat to the peace process and the survival of the Cambodian people as mentioned by His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen of the SOC in his 5 January 1993 statement.

As for the Khmer Rouge PDK's liaison officers at all levels in the CCMAUN, which has been set up in compliance with Article 2, Appendix 2 of the accord, they have not effectively performed their functions in line with the spirit of the accord. Despite a great deal of evidence showing truce violations committed by their faction, the PDK representatives have refused to recognize these actions. For more than one year, at the CCMAUN's meetings at all levels, the Khmer Rouge PDK's representatives have always tried hard to deny the faction's responsibilities and continued to raise the same old theories, hindering and spoiling the meetings' climate as their chieftains have done at every meeting of the Supreme National Council.

Even more dangerously, the Khmer Rouge's PDK has turned its officials in the CCMAUN into secret agents at the forefront to gather intelligence from other parties, especially the SOC side, for use in their military attacks. This has caused the situation on battlefields, such as along Route 12 and in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, Battambang, and Kompong Cham Provinces and other areas, to become increasingly tense and remain unresolved.

It is worth recalling that lately, the Khmer Rouge PDK has been capable of shelling cities and townships, seriously endangering innocent people's lives and property. It has also instigated terrorism in all forms and threatened the people from registering for and taking part in elections, burning the people's voter-registration cards, menacing and evicting UNTAC voter-registration teams, capturing UNTAC officials as hostages, and attacking the UNTAC forces. It has gone so far as to fire insolent and unfair accusations at UNTAC as well. This situation has severely threatened the ongoing process of implementation of the accord.

For this reason and in view of the SOC side's 5 January statement, the CPAF wishes to put forth to UNTAC the following proposals:

1. Measures should be taken to put a halt to the Khmer Rouge PDK's military breaches.

2. A 31 January 1993 deadline should be imperatively fixed in keeping with the UN Security Council's Resolution 792, Paragraph 5 to force the Khmer Rouge PDK to participate in executing the accord. On the deadline, should the PDK continue to refuse to take part in its implementation, the CPAF proposes that the PDK's liaison officers be removed from the CCMAUN at all levels both in Phnom Penh and in the provinces under the control of the SOC side. And should the Khmer Rouge PDK further deny implementation of the accord and continue to breach it, it is no longer reasonable to keep the Khmer Rouge PDK's liaison officers in the Mixed Military Working Group either. We have exhibited fortitude toward the PDK for more than one year, but it is the faction that has excluded itself from the peace process.

3. Concurrently, the CPAF will also announce removal of its liaison officers from the Pailin region.

We hope that you would certainly understand the aforementioned stance of the CPAF.

General, please, accept my highest regards.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 1 January 1993
[Signed] Gen. Ke Kimyan, chairman of the CCMAUN of the SOC

Railway Track, Battambang Bridges Blown Up

BK0302123393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0853 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Feb 3 (AFP)—A stretch of track on one of Cambodia's only functioning railway lines was blown up this week, disrupting the "Sisophon Express" train that brings refugees back from camps in Thailand, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

Plastic explosives were detonated on the tracks overnight Monday about 60 kilometers (37 miles) southeast of Battambang, and U.N. officials had no idea who placed them, spokesman Eric Berman said.

About 1,200 refugees had been scheduled to come back Tuesday on the train, said Annick Roulet, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The explosion occurred just a few hours before the train was scheduled to depart.

"We don't know if it was directed against the Sisophon Express or against a commercial train, because there is just one line for going both ways," she said. "We were very lucky it wasn't on the track at the time."

U.N. civilian police were assigned to monitor the tracks after landmines were found along them near Battambang several weeks ago.

"It's a long distance; it's difficult to patrol everywhere," Roulet said.

Also in the same area, two bridges on routes feeding into National Route 5 linking Battambang with the capital were detonated around the same time, Berman said.

One was completely destroyed and the other was partially damaged and was still being used by pedestrians, he said.

The train tracks were being repaired by Phnom Penh government authorities and would be completed by Saturday in time for the next "Sisophon Express" run, Berman said.

Refugees from the Thai camps being resettled in eastern Cambodia are trucked to Sisophon where they board the trains for a 360 km (223 mile) journey to Phnom Penh.

Tens of thousands of Cambodians have returned along the train route.

The line from Sisophon to Phnom Penh is one of only two functioning railway lines in the country. The other goes from the southern port of Sihanoukville to the capital.

Khmer Rouge Army Assesses Current Fighting

BK0402022593 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Feb 93

["Statement by the Spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea on the Offensive Plans of the Yuon Enemy Aggressors and Puppets in the 15th Dry Season 1992-1993;" place not given; dated 3 February—read by announcer]

[Text] I. The dry season offensive plan of the Yuon [Vietnamese] enemy aggressors and the Phnom Penh puppets started in December 1992 on the battlefields in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, and Battambang.

II. What are the goals of the offensive plans of the Yuon enemy aggresors and the Phnom Penh puppets, and what are their activities?

1. Military aspect: The size of the force of the Yuon enemy aggressors and the puppets does not exceed that of previous dry seasons. These forces are even weaker than in the previous dry seasons in terms of troop strength, armament, ammunition, and especially fighting spirit. The majority of puppet soldiers have no will to fight and are new recruits. As for the genuine Yuon troops in the puppet army—there are about 300 of them on average in each division—they are unable to endure the situation.

2. The Cambodian people in rural and urban areas and both within and outside the country are increasingly angry with the Yuon enemy aggressors and the fascist regime—the Yuon's puppet—and are more and more vigorously opposing them . In Phnom Penh in particular, in December 1992 and January 1993, there were two demonstration plans by students and the masses against the Yuon aggressors and the fascist regime which is the puppet of the Yuon. One was in mid-December and the other at the end of January during the Chinese and Vietnamese New Year.

3. In such a situation, why do the Yuon aggressors and the Phnom Penh puppets make efforts to launch this 15th dry season offensive? The Yuon aggressors and their puppets, military strategists, and diplomats know that the Yuon cannot win militarily. In particular, the Hanoi Yuon aggressors and their puppets know their capability; they did their best during a 13-year full-scale military war and they were strategically beaten.

What are the goals of the Yuon and their puppets in launching this 15th dry season offensive? Their major aim in the current offensive is to serve the special political goal concerning the election plan of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the Yuon aggresors and their puppets. The plan of the current campaign is a common plan of the Yuon aggressors, their puppets, and allies in and outside UNTAC. This is why they—the Yuon aggressors, the Yuon's puppets, and the bad elements in UNTAC—are making so much efforts.

As we have successively pointed out to local and foreign opinion, as soon as the offensive of the Yuon and puppets started, incidents in which UNTAC violated and carried out spying activities in the zones of Democratic Kampuchea [DK] successively took place, particularly while the Yuon and puppets were moving forward and attacking the DK zones. Furthermore, the bad elements in UNTAC have provided money and war materiel to the Yuon and puppets and allowed them to move troops, big and small artillery pieces, tanks, and multiple rockets batteries at will to serve this campaign. Some UNTAC staff even went to inspect and directly encourage the Yuon and their puppets at their forward command post.

The goal of the Yuon aggressors, their puppets, and allies in and outside UNTAC, is to attempt to use military force and this campaign to intimidate others to take part in their ill-conceived election plan. This is why they planned two major offensives. The first was codenamed the 28 January plan—28 January was the date the Supreme National Council [SNC] met in Beijing. The 28 January plan of the Yuon aggressors, puppets, and UNTAC leaders consisted of:

- — Making every effort to seize and control Pailin;
- — If this failed, efforts to be made to be able to shell Pailin with artillery pieces to make some noise and put pressure on the 28 January meeting in Beijing.

However, the first phase—the 28 January plan - of their scheme has been defeated both on the military battlefield and at the negotiating table. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, SNC chairman, has said that he will not allow the presidential election to be held before the assembly election and that he will wait and see how this assembly election is done. If this assembly is one which only serves foreigners, he will not work with this assembly.

Given a situation in which they have been disgracefully defeated militarily and diplomatically and in which the election plan is faced with problems, the Yuon aggressors and their puppets, with the collusion of bad elements in and outside UNTAC, have once more made all-out efforts to gather troops and attack DK zones on the battlefields in Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom Provinces, also putting out exaggerating propaganda of all sorts.

Here are the results according to reports from the battlefields:

a. On the Route 10-Bavel battlefield, from 29 to 31 January, the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] smashed and routed the Yuon enemy and puppets on three major prongs.

b. On the Siem Reap and Kompong Thom battlefields, we have also basically smashed the offensive.

4. On the offensive of the Yuon enemy aggressors and their puppets, there is nothing new, both during the 13-year full-scale war of aggression involving genuine Yuon troops and in the 14th dry season following the Paris agreement.

Do people remember that after the Paris agreement was signed there was a delay in sending peacekeeping forces to Cambodia and in entering the second phase until June 1992? What was this delay for? This was to allow the Yuon to gather their forces and launch their full-scale 14th dry season offensive to destroy as much of the Cambodian national resistance forces as possible and at the same time force the latter to dubiously enter the second phase without implementing the clause on verifying the Yuon and the clause on the SNC role. This was in order to tie the hands and feet of the Cambodian national resistance forces for the Yuon to massacre them at will.

However, this maneuver of Yuon aggressors and their allies in and outside UNTAC has failed. While the farce of an election is being staged in the dark atmosphere of the fascist regime of the Yuon and their puppets, another attempt is made to use brute force to push the Cambodian national resistance forces and the Cambodian people into the cauldron of death of the Yuon and their puppets.

Can the Yuon aggresors, their puppets, and allies in and outside UNTAC pull off this dark maneuver? We will not predict, but we have observed that the Yuon gathered hundreds of thousands of their troops to invade and occupy Cambodia for 13 years. The Cambodian national resistance forces collaborated with the Cambodian people to defeat them, one strategy after another, until they were compelled to sign the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

However, the fighting is not over yet. The reason is because UNTAC leaders have not implemented the Paris agreement. UNTAC leaders and allies in and outside UNTAC have only colluded with the Yuon aggressors and the Phnom Penh puppets to implement an altered agreement aimed at destroyng the Cambodian national resistance forces, including the DK, in order to include other people into the fascist regime which is the puppet of the Yuon.

This is the reason why the Yuon continue the war, both fighting on the battlefield and fighting the people. This will further complicate the situation during the 15th dry season. And who is responsible for the increasingly dark situation that is spreading?

As Prince Norodom Sihanouk clearly summed up on 13 December 1992, it is UNTAC leaders, the Yuon aggressors, and their puppets. As for the Cambodian nation, people, and the Cambodian national resistance forces, they want the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement correctly and comprehensively implemented, particularly the clauses on the SNC role and UNTAC control of the five ministries and verification that all Yuon aggressors are withdrawn from Cambodia.

Furthermore, the Cambodian nation and people and the Cambodian national resistance forces will continue to unite and remain highly vigilant to oppose and thwart enemy plans, militarily, politically, and diplomatically, as they have have done in the struggle against the Yuon enemies and their puppets for the past 13-14 years.

[Dated] 3 February 1993
[Signed] The NADK Spokesman

Hun Sen Vows Troops Not To Attack KR Base

OW0402045893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0432 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—The Phnom Penh government says it has no plans for its Army to attack the Khmer Rouge [KR] headquarters of Pailin, capital of the northwestern province of Battambang, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

He said the assurance was given by Prime Minister Hun Sen to Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Yukio Imagawa.

Tadashi Ikeda, director general of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, told a session of the House of Representatives' budget committee that Imagawa met Hun Sen on Wednesday and was told that the Phnom Penh government will observe the U.N.-brokered Paris peace accords signed in 1991 to end a 13-year-old civil war.

The Phnom Penh government began an offensive Monday against the Khmer Rouge-controlled area.

The Khmer Rouge, the most powerful of three factions that fought the government, has refused to implement the accords or to disarm its fighters, demanding assurances that Vietnamese troops have left Cambodia.

Son Sann: Sihanouk Should Settle Fighting

BK0402143693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 4 (AFP)—The leader of a small right-wing Cambodian faction Thursday suggested that the warring parties in Cambodia should invite Prince Norodom Sihanouk to put a halt to a new outbreak of fighting there.

The prince, as head of state and president of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) could settle the differences between the Phnom Penh government and the hard-line Khmer Rouge in "a family type atmosphere," Son Sann suggested in a statement released in Bangkok.

Son Sann, a member of the SNC, heads a small right-wing faction that has reportedly not been involved in the spate of fighting over the past week. The battles broke out following a Phnom Penh government offensive on Khmer Rouge positions.

"He (Son Sann) urges all the Cambodian parties to refrain from further violating the Paris Peace Accord and instead to unite behind HRH [His Royal Highness] Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk ... to settle their differences in a family atmosphere at the forthcoming meeting of the SNC of February 10, 1993," the statement said.

Prince Sihanouk, currently in Beijing for health reasons, is scheduled to return to Phnom Penh via Bangkok for the meeting, Thai officials said here Tuesday.

Hun Sen Receives Japanese Cultural Mission

BK0402062293 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0422 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 4—Prime Minister Hun Sen received here on February 2 a Japanese delegation led by Dr. Yoshaki Ishizawa, head of Japan's culture mission and director of the Asia Culture Institute.

Yoshaki Ishizawa's visit was aimed at asking Khmer antiques to be exhibited in Japan.

During talks, Ishizawa expressed thanks to the Government of the State of Cambodia for providing a number of valuable Khmer antiques to be displayed at the coming exhibitions to be organised in Japan.

The 96 items of Khmer antiques will be shown at three different exhibition places, including Tokyo, Osaka and Hotoka in Japan, in which exhibitions will be started from August this year.

Ishizawa pledged to strictly preserve all Khmer antiques and to bring them back to Cambodia after exhibitions.

Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed welcome to the Japanese Government and people for their attention into Khmer culture and also accepted the invitation to participate in the inauguration ceremony of the exhibitions in Japan.

Indonesia

Military Chief: Troops To Remain in Cambodia

BK0402101693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0945 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 4 (OANA/ANTARA)—Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) General Try Sutrisno said here Thursday that the Garuda XII-D contingent in Cambodia would remain in duty to accomplish the entrusted mission by the United Nations even when things are getting hot in Cambodia.

"We will be on duty there. We will be steady, persevering, diligent and patient. But all sides must realize that only the Cambodians themselves can preserve their national unity," Try said adding that Indonesian troopers were just mediators.

Conflicting groups in Cambodia including the Democratic Cambodia faction (formerly the Khmer Rouge) were involved in the recent armed fights in the country.

Try went on to say that Garuda XII-B contingent would return home gradually now that the succeeding Garuda XII-D contingent had arrived in Cambodia.

Energy Minister Ginanjar Discusses Oil Excess

BK3001064193 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0525 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta Jan 30 (ANTARA)—The OPEC oil price had been down to 16.74 US dollars/barrel till the middle of January 1993 from 18.73 US dollars per barrel in the previous two months, Mines, Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita disclosed earlier this week.

Speaking at a meeting of ASEAN energy ministers in Bangkok, Ginanjar further said that the fall in the OPEC oil price to the level below 17.00 US dollars/barrel resulted from oil oversupply on the world market.

The oversupply is the impact of the violation of production quota by OPEC member countries, he said, and pointed out that the OPEC meeting in Geneva in September 1992 decided to limit OPEC oil production for the last quarter of 1992 at 23.9 millon/day with a price level of 21 US dollar/barrel.

But the real production in October 1992 averaged 25.2 million barrels/day, exceeding the quota already set in Geneva, causing a decline in the crude price from 19.16 US dollars/barrel in August 1992 to 18.87 US dollars/barrel in October 1992.

The unfavourable development of the world oil market has prompted the OPEC member countries at a meeting in Vienna in November 1992 to increase the production quota to 24.5 million barrels/day for the first quarter of 1993. The quota excludes the oil production of Ecuador, which during the Geneva meeting decided to quit OPEC.

OPEC member countries have shown skeptical response to the result of the Vienna's meeting, and there is an indication that several OPEC members have produced crude oil above their respective quota.

According to the latest report, OPEC oil production in December 1992 reached an average of 25.4 million barrels/day, or 1.5 million barrels above the quota.

The oversupply has brought down the crude price on the international market to 16.74 US dollars/barrel in the middle of January 1993 from 17.69 US dollars in December last year.

Improvement in the oil price this year is hardly possible, especially when Iraq's crude has entered the market, the minister said.

OPEC should reduce its oil production at least by one million barrels a day to ensure improvement in the oil price, according to Ginanjar.

An OPEC ministerial meeting to be held on February 13, 1993 will possibly discuss efforts to lower production, he said.

OPEC oil output in October 1992 reached 25.3 million barrels/day, the highest record over the past ten years and showing an increase of about 340,000 barrels/day compared with that in the previous month.

OPEC overproduction has reached an average of 500,000 to 600,000 barrels per day. Therefore, the effort to keep the production down is urgent to avoid the fall in the oil price in the coming several months.

Not long ago, Indonesia insisted the maintenance of its crude production at 1.3 million barrels/day, still below the production quota of 1.374 barrels/day given by OPEC, according to Ginanjar.

Indonesia is now not prepared to lower its oil output as the country has so far been consistent with the OPEC quota in producing oil, he asserted.

Outcome of Human Rights Workshop Reviewed

BK0202072193 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0532 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 2 (OANA/ANTARA)—The second Asia-Pacific workshop on human rights wound up here last week with a number of important ideas including on the setting up of an independent regional human rights commission.

However, participants of the three-day workshop believed that a sub-regional commission would be a more realistic idea to materialize before the heterogenous Asia-Pacific nations could approve a commision of regional level.

Koshi Yamazaki of Japan, one of the panelists at the workshop which drew participants from 31 countries, even said that a feasibility study should first be carried out to ensure the smooth activities of a commission for protection and promotion of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region.

Those attending the workshop which was sponsored by the United Nations in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry, however, seemed to be more concerned with the independence and autonomy of such a commission.

Questions on the two aspects ranged from "is it possible for the commission to carry out objective evaluation" and "is it possible for the commission to free itself from the influence of the powerful governments of certain nations" to "what will be the best membership composition of the commission".

Commenting on this, a number of participants said that the commission should compose individuals of various backgrounds and professions like journalists, legislators, human rights activists, lawyers, and government officials.

Marzuki Darusman, a participant who in his days as a parliamentarian was noted for his outspokenness, said all members of the commission must come as individuals, they must not represent the institutions where they officially work.

He further said that the government should not be the one to appoint the members of the commission.

If one is elected a commission member, it must be on the basis of his or her popularity as a public figure with undisputed personal integrity, Darusman said, adding that the membership composition would reflect the whole image of the commission.

He also underscored the importance of independence and autonomy, saying that unless these aspects were given special attention, reports by the commission to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva would not be objective and meaningful to the efforts to promote human rights in any Asia-Pacific country.

Meanwhile, observers saw the second Asia-Pacific workshop on human rights which took place from January 26 to 28 as something very beneficial to the government's plan to set up a national human rights commission.

In his concluding remarks, Director General for Political Affairs, Foreign Ministry, Wiryono Sastrohandoyo said that the workshop enabled Indonesia to learn other countries' experiences with their national human rights commission.

Nations with quite a lengthy experience on such a commission, in the Asia-Pacific region, Sastrohandoyo said, include the Philippines and Australia.

The Philippines at the workshop was represented by Narciso C. Monteiro who expressed complaints that the National Human Rights Commission in his country was not equipped with enough mandate and authority to act on its own.

"We are only entitled to carry out investigations on those considered violators of human rights principles," he said adding that results of the investigations must be submitted to the courts which would handle the trial process.

Monteiro said that the National Human Rights Commission in the Philippines did not have the rights to put on trial by itself those believed to be guilty of human rights violations.

Brian Burdekin of Australia, on the other hand, said that the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission in his country hold a highly respected position with enough mandate and authority.

He can even ask for explanation from a minister if he is presumed to have violated human rights, Burdekin said, adding such a commission in Australia stood separately from the executive, legislative, and judicial institutions.

It may be true that Indonesia still has to study the presence of such a commission in other Asia-Pacific countries, but domestically the call for the setting up of a national human rights commission has even received a support from President Suharto.

And with such a commission, Indonesia will join the group of 27 nations all over the world which already have a national human rights commission.

Philippines

Officials Fear 'Row' With U.S. Over VOA

HK0402042593 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 4 Feb 93 p 11

[Text] A United States-Philippine row could erupt over the Bases Conversion Development Authority's [BCDA] plans to take over the Voice of America [VOA] transmitter sites at Poro Point, La Union and Tinang, Tarlac, senior Foreign Affairs officials fear. The move comes at a time when the Philippines is seeking to strengthen relations with the U.S. after the acrimonious negotiations which led to the pullout of U.S. forces from the former Subic Naval Base.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, in the run-up to the elections, had declared his intent to have the VOA set up a so-called "Radio Free Asia" to perform a role in this region similar to that undertaken by Radio Free Europe, which contributed to the downfall of communism. "There are a number of closed, authoritarian societies still in Asia," a U.S. official pointed out, citing Myanmar, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos and China. Western diplomats also worry about a "backsliding Thailand."

The 17-antennae transmitter at Poro Point at the Wallace Air Station broadcasts to Vietnam, China, throughout Southeast Asia and up to East Africa, while the 39-antennae Tinang facility (across the highway from Camp O'Donnell) hits the Soviet Far East, parts of China and South Asia. The VOA station in Baguio was damaged by the part earthquake and has not been restored. The only other VOA site in the region is in Bangkok but it is of limited broadcasting power.

"We are studying the matter very closely because there are political ramifications," Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) coordinator Tomas Syquia said yesterday. Other DFA officials believe this issue, along with the proposal for amnesty of U.S. Col. James Rowe's killers, "could be the litmus test for how friendly we intend our relations with the U.S. to be."

A senior DFA official pointed out that as the "cradle of democracy" in this part of the world, the Philippines has a major stake in promoting the values of democracy and the free flow of information."

BCDA officials want the memorandum of understanding covering the VOA's operations here terminated. They feel the transmitter sites, especially at Poro Point, would hamper the conversion of Wallace Air Station into a viable industrial estate. "They haven't even begun converting the other reverted baselands yet," observed a senior Philippine diplomat.

NUC Adviser Opposes Talks With Exiled Rebels

HK0402041693 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Former Huk [Freedom Fighters of the Nations] Supremo Luis Taruc, one of the advisers of the National Unification Commission [NUC], urged the government yesterday to negotiate with Satur Ocampo, former spokesman of the National Democratic Front [NDF], and Romulo Kintanar, presumed former chief of the rebel New People's Army, instead of the NDF leaders based in the Netherlands.

Dissident leaders based in the Netherlands include Jose Ma. [Maria] Sison, founding chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and Luis Jalandoni, vice chairman of the NDF, umbrella organization of the left.

Taruc cited Sison's "lack of credibility" as one reason the government's peace efforts with the left had failed to take off. He also deplored what he called Sison's hardheadedness. "Masyado matigas ang kanyang ulo ... bukod sa maliit ang kaniyang kredibilidad [He is too stubborn ... aside from being less credible]," Taruc told Malacanang reporters. Taruc, a member of the NUC advisory council, said holding talks with Ocampo and Kintanar might hasten the peace process.

The former Huk leader appealed to Sison to "make some sacrifices for the benefit of the peace process." Taruc added that Sison and other dissident leaders in exile should not be totally kept out of the peace effort and could make some contribution if he could be persuaded to come. "Di pa rin puwedeng balewalain sina Joma ... kung mahihikayat silang umuwi (for the peace talks), mas mabuti [Joma and his colleagues cannot be ignored ... if they can be persuaded to come home for the peace talks, then that's to the better]," Taruc said.

At the same time, Taruc said the government's peace efforts were hampered by the "activities here of the (U.S.) Central Intelligence Agency." He did not elaborate.

In a related development, a Malacanang official quoted NUC chairman Haydee Yorac as saying the NUC was expected "some breakthroughs: in peace negotiations with the left. The official gave no details. Yorac and Taruc were in Malacanang yesterday for a meeting with President Ramos.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, meanwhile, said the House of Representatives was open to the idea of extending the life of the NUC after March 16. De Venecia, who also met with the President in Malacanang yesterday along with other members of Congress, said this could be done by creating a new body to continue discharging the NUC's functions. He said he would consult with House leaders and NUC members on the matter to "sustain and enlarge the peace process."

In the right-wing camp, former Army Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan said yesterday that the coup attempts mounted by military rebels in the late 1980s were justifiable as a fight against what he called a corrupt and inept government. "People ask us who gave us the right to do this. It's not a question of right. It's a question of duty. If other people do not take their duty seriously, we do," Honasan said in a television interview.

"We will not allow ourselves to become a punching bag on this issue," said Honasan, whom the government had accused of leading three of six coup attempts against the administration of former President Corazon Aquino. More than 200 people were killed in attempted coups in 1987 and 1989.

Honasan said the military rebels were forced to break a "romantic, simplistic" oath to the Constitution to pursue their goal of good government. In December last year, Honasan emerged from more than four years in hiding to take part in peace talks between military rebels and the government. He said yesterday the government of President Ramos would be to blame if the talks failed.

Editorial Views Protest of Panel Authority

HK0302084593 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 3 Feb 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Abenina Raises a False Issue"]

[Text] Unless the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] is involved in a new conspiracy to divert presidential attention from other matters of state and consume presidential time in laborious negotiations with them, the group will just have to deal with a committee.

Former Constabulary general Edgardo Abenina complained that the government panel headed by a respected law professor has no authority to commit government to whatever concessions may be agreed upon in the talks. Abenina, who represents the rebellious military factions behind the frustrated coup attempts of the late '80s, even threatened to scuttle the talks unless the authority granted the government panel was clarified. Another RAM leader pompously declared that "if the government panel will have no power whatsoever to commit anything, there is no use talking."

There is a serious problem of proportionality and procedure on the RAM panel, remnants of inglorious rebellions that failed.

Of course, the Tadiar panel has no authority to commit government. It is merely a negotiating panel mandated by its principals—the Philippine government—to discuss with a group of malcontents, find out what it is they were rebelling against and make appropriate recommendations to the authorities. The government negotiating panel is not the government. It is an instrumentality of government. It is not part of the legislative process and certainly not the entirely of the policy-making process.

Abenina must be informed that the Philippine government operates on a democratic framework. This is not an autocracy. Legislation is passed by an independent Congress. Issues of law are resolved by an independent Supreme Court. Policies are formulated on the basis of broad consultations as stipulated by the Constitution.

Even if President Ramos himself sits and negotiates with these renegade soldiers, he could not commit the entire government either. He is part of government; he is not the government. There are democratic and representative procedures to follow—or else the President might find himself on the receiving end of an impeachment suit for usurpation of authority. The leaders of the RAM must try a little harder to look beyond the foxhole of their authoritarian mindset.

The negotiations, no matter now important they might seem to the RAM leaders, do not in any way displace the proper mechanisms, institutions and procedures by which grievances are redressed, disagreements reconciled and reforms realized. These rebellious factions must sober up to the fact that while they may have a megalomaniac propensity for claiming to speak for the whole nation (all rebellious movements have such propensity) they are but one of several groups sincerely desiring reform at the quickest possible pace.

Abenina and company, if they find the intellectual humility required to see things in their proper perspective, must sober up to the fact that they represent a faction of opinion that enjoys only marginal political support. The rebellion they espoused with much ardour is neither in the pink of political health nor on the brink of victory. Government, by initiating these negotiations, is demonstrating astuteness and confidence rather then terror over the spectre of imminent collapse.

The RAM is a lost political cause that must be tolerated for whatever virtue there might be in the visions they espouse. Democratic ethics inspires government, no matter if the other side refuses democratic procedures. Abenina and company must at least acknowledge that.

The Tadiar panel must report to the government that commissioned it. The Abenina panel being the residue of a movement that was sparse to begin with, is responsible only to itself. Professor Tadiar cannot commit government; Abenina and company have no one else to commit. There are unavoidable imbalances here that must be constantly borne in mind.

Whatever is discussed—or postured—in course of the negotiations enters the public agenda. If the ideas put forward by the RAM leaders are intrinsically brilliant, they will shine on their own and enlighten the processes of legislation and policymaking. There is really no need to fuss about the formalities of designation here.

Abenina's fussing emits no real issue. He must contemplate the fact that his place on the negotiating table is vastly more comfortable than a cot in a damp cell. This is democracy's gift.

Rejection of Power Rate Increase Seen Threatening Foreign Loans

HK0402034793 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 4 Feb 93 p B-1

[Text] A total of $1.58 billion loans from the World Bank and the Japan Export-Import Bank for major power projects will be jeopardized if the 18-centavo per kilowatt hour rate adjustment sought by the state-owned National Power Corp [Napocor], will not be resolved immediately. Napocor officials told a press conference yesterday that the impact of the Supreme Court's [SC] temporary restraining order on the implementation of the rate increase would not be limited to the power firm's loans but also to other loans being negotiated by the national government, notably the $200 million economic integration facility.

"All these loans will be affected because the World Bank considers the SC move not just a breach of Napocor's commitment but a breach of the country's commitment," Napocor vice president for finance Merlita Pajarillo said. Pajarillo said that the loans which will be adversely hit by the freezing of the Napocor's rate increase including about $994 million from the World Bank, also the package from the International Finance Corp. which were negotiated by private proponents under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme. Likewise to be curtailed is the $586 million credit facility from the Japan Eximbank, which requires the monitoring of Napocor's compliance to the firm's reform program earlier approved by the World Bank.

Napocor president Pablo V. Malixi said that, although the power firm has already asked its creditors to give it a little time to resolve the issue, "I was told of the repercussions of SC order." These agencies are waiting to be advised within the week on the results of the court case.

The World Bank package covers the loans which are underway, such as the undisbursed components of the energy sector loan amounting to $92 million, the Bacon-Manito geothermal project of $38 million, and the Japan Eximbank's co-financing of $135 million for the energy sector facility.

Those already negotiated but are also in danger of suspension include the $110 million credit for the fast track transmission lines and substations as well as the $69 million portion from the International Finance Corp. earmarked for the 700-megawatt Pabilao coal-fired plant of Hopewell Energy Ltd. and an undetermined amount for other BOT projects of Napocor.

Pajarillo pointed out that the World Bank is also holding in abeyance the loans currently being appraised, such as the $250 million for the Leyte-Luzon interconnection project and the $100 million being sought by Meralco [Manila Electric and Railway Company]. On the other hand, she identified that the $151 million loans from the Japan Eximbank for the Bataan Combined Cycle project (Block A) already underway might suffer the same fate.

The additional Japan Eximbank's facilities that might be curtailed were the $214 million for the Bataan Combined Cycle project (Block B) and the $221 million for Mindanao diesel barge. Both have been signed already. To fund some of the purchases of Napocor without delaying the implementation of the fast track power projects, Malixi explained that the power firm with initially drawn on the P3-billion [Phillipine pesos] allocation from the Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OECF). The amount that will be used, he said, will be reverted back when the $110 million loan.

World Bank Credited With Easing Energy Problem

HK0202061393 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Feb 93 p 4

[Unattributed editorial: "Here's the Whipping Boy"]

[Text] The World Bank, along with its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, is every populist politician's convenient whipping boy for all the ills afflicting this nation.

Now the World Bank is once again about to be flogged for suspending release of $1.1 billion in power sector loans because of the Supreme Court decision temporarily stopping the National Power Corp. from increasing rates by 18 centavos a kilowatt-hour starting this month.

That the World Bank was responsible for pressuring Napocor [National Power Corporation, NPC] into increasing power charges is not in dispute. The Napocor can't pay back its loans at current rates. How can the NPC expect to get additional loans without improving its debt servicing capability? The bungling that drew a reprimand from the Supreme Court is a side issue. The Energy Regulatory Board, a quasi-judicial body under the Office of the President, dragged its feet on the Napocor petition for a rate increase, prompting the tribunal to issue the restraining order.

Given this background, it is to be expected that the halls of Congress will once again reverberate to charges of "black-mail" by this "cold-hearted" lending institution.

The World Bank undoubtedly holds quite strong leverage, $1.1 billion in loans. A partial listing of the power projects affected by the World Bank freeze includes $189 million for the Leyte-Cebu geothermal project, $100 million for the Bacon-Manito geothermal project, $200 million for the Leyte-Luzon geothermal project and $100 million for improving the distribution system of the Manila Electric Co.

The sheer magnitude of the money involved, a round P25 billion [Philippine pesos] at current exchange rates, is the reason for the cries of "blackmail." But the same consideration is the strongest argument for not taking seriously the carpings of these anti-World Bank quarters.

Who in this whole world is ready to lend P25 billion so the blasted brownouts will end? Certainly not the commercial banks, and we have yet to hear of an international philanthropic organization willing to literally provide us light.

Who financed the construction of the power plants and the stringing of transmission lines that enabled this country to leapfrog into the power age? Since the 1970s, the World Bank has poured in no less than $10 billion for the ambitious power program started by President Marcos. Now practically every barrio has electricity.

Critics of the World Bank would get some enlightenment by playing "what if." What if the World Bank had not bankrolled the country's power program? Could we have done it on our own? And at what sacrifice?

Only one country has transformed itself from peasant age to the world of electricity in one generation. That's the former Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. All available social surplus (defined in Marxist literature as the excess output after consumption or simply savings in capitalist terms) was spent on the building of dams and transmission lines. Marxists don't call this process of squeezing social surplus as "primitive capital accumulation" for nothing. It was not only primitive, it was barbaric. Millions of people were shanghaied to build dams in some godforsaken corner of the Soviet Union, from dawn to sunset, year-round from spring to winter. Grains were confiscated from farmers and clothing from weavers to feed and clothe this mass of workers.

Would our congressmen ever agree to confiscatory taxation and forced labor to build power plants? Perish the thought.

They can't even agree on increasing tax rates, and yet here they are madly railing against the World Bank.

Domestic Debt Increases by 55%

HK0302074593 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Fil C. Sionil]

[Text] The country's domestic debt soared sharply by 55 percent to an all-time high of P514 billion 34 [Philippine pesos] as of end December last year from only P331.95 billion level incurred the previous year as the government continued with its deficit spending.

Statistics released by the Government Securities Department (GSD) of Central Bank [CB] showed that the increase in the country's domestic obligations could be attributed to the expansion in the issuances of government debt instruments amounting to during the year P182.39 billion.

However, GSD pointed out that the additional P182.39 billion domestic liabilities availed in 1992 were at lower interest rates of only 16.656 percent compared to a borrowing cost of 21.103 percent in 1991.

The national government's indebtedness accounts for 84.70 percent of the outstanding P514.34 billion debt level, amounting to P434.54 billion, up by 54.31 percent or P153.29 billion more than the 1991 level of only P282.25 billion.

This indicates that of the aggregate government securities or debt instruments issued by Central Bank last year, some P153.29 billion went to the national coffers to finance the deficit spending of the national government last year.

On the other hand, CB took 14.86 percent of the outstanding government securities issuance amounting to P76.45 billion for the year past, climbing up by 60.91 percent from P47.51 billion in 1991.

The P28.94 billion worth of government securities issued by CB in 1992 was used to mop up excess liquidity in the financial system in order to meet the monetary targets under the economic program under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund.

The balance of P160 million was borrowed by government corporations resulting in an increase in its domestic obligations to P2.35 billion in 1992 from P2.19 billion the previous year.

The increment in government corporations' outstanding domestic obligations was due to the P230 million 10-year Angat bonds issued by Metropolitan Water Works Sewerage System in April last year.

Furthermore, GSD reported that primary issuances reached P920.38 billion, exceeding by P309.07 billion the 1991 level of P611.09 billion.

While CB issued new debt notes, it likewise redeemed some of the maturing debt instruments floated in previously. Aggregate maturing government securities redeemed by the government securities redeemed by the government reached P737.77 billion, an increase by P215.26 billion from 1991 level of P522.51 billion.

Since the national government accounts for the bulk of the domestic debts, logically it is the top issuer of debt instruments for the period in review eating up P636.79 billion, followed by CB with P283.36 billion and government corporations for P230.0 million.

Ramos Favors 'Involuntary' Police Separations

HK0202060393 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 2 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] President Ramos yesterday said he favors "involuntary separations" in reaction to calls from several sectors including the police itself for all senior police officers to resign en masse to give him a free hand to reorganize the scandal ridden organization. "General (Pedro) Navarro is just asking them to voluntarily retire or resign, and our action is involuntary separation from the service based on our decision if there is probable cause," Ramos said.

Navarro, a police general, had called for the mass resignations of his fellow generals and other senior officers and this had gained instant support from the public including Sen. [Senator] Ernesto Maceda who called for the resignation of 18 generals and the immediate replacement of the top three men to improve the police's much tarnished image.

But the President did not entirely rule out the Navarro proposal saying "well, it is still a matter of personal choice among those who are affected... (but) let me dig more into that because I am only seeing it in the newspapers." He said he will visit police headquarters in Camp Crame on Thursday, Philippine National Police [PNP] second foundation day, and discussed issues involving the police with Department of Interior and Local Governments [DILG] officials and senior police officers. "The executive (branch of government) are taking actions to pinpoint really who are the people that must be separated from the service," Ramos added.

The President said DILG Secretary Rafael Alunan III and PNP chief Raul Imperial had long been working on the "ghost policemen" scam and have already identified many who would be dropped from the rolls. "I hope that they can come out with some other names who are at the top" of this scam, he said, adding he had also ordered an accounting of personnel in the Public Works and Highways and Environment and Natural Resources departments where there had been reports also of "ghost employees."

Meanwhile, a solomonic suggestion had been advanced by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon to resolve the continuing problem of who is responsible for peace and order that has long been bedeviling the police and local government executives. He proposes a division of the PNP into national and local levels to resolve the issue of responsibility and authority of the Philippine National Police and the local government officials. A local level police would answer the mayors' demand for more authority over police detailed in their jurisdictions and the national level police would handle the insurgency because of the "difference in combat organization, equipment, armament and training which the force needs to battle rebels requires organizational planning and orchestration at the national level."

Biazon expanded on his proposal, saying local police still be subject to policies the national police will provide to prevent abuses or excesses such as the development of local police by mayors as their own private armies as had happened before the police was nationalized.

3 Consulates, 12 Embassies To Close

HK0402055393 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] has announced that starting 30 June, it will close three consulates in the United States and 12 Philippine embassies. The 127 personnel who will be affected by the closure will be recalled and given home assignments. Consulates included in the closure are those in Seattle, Washington, and Houston, Texas.

Meanwhile, among a total of 12 foreign embassies that will be closed are in Amman, Jordan; Dakar, Senegal; Rabat, Morocco; Bucharest, Rumania; Warsaw, Poland; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Pohnpei, Micronesia; Havana, Cuba; and Lima, Peru.

The DFA added the Philippines has 19 consulates worldwide. Though the three consulates in the United States will be closed, a new consulate will be opened in Milan, Italy.

Thailand

Cambodian Buffer Zone Proposal Causes 'Concern'

BK0402024993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Feb 93 p A2

[Excerpt] Thailand yesterday expressed concern over a Phnom Penh proposal for United Nations peacekeepers to be stationed in buffer zones, isolating the Khmer Rouge from the three other factions.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said the buffer zone proposal, which Untac is considering, would in effect mean the partition of the country to contain the Marxist faction.

"How to enforce the proposed buffer zones? And what will happen after the UN troops are withdrawn from there," Surin said.

Phnom Penh on Tuesday said its troops recently attacked Khmer Rouge positions in seven of Cambodia's 21 provinces to regain and maintain territory to allow residents to vote.

The proposed buffer zones are partly aimed at preventing the Khmer Rouge from disrupting the UN organized general election scheduled for May 23-25.

"The buffer zones show clear intention of confrontation and clearly indicate that battle-lines are being drawn," Surin said.

Based on the proposal, UN troops would be removed from the buffer zones three months after the poll.

"The zones clearly show that Phnom Penh wants to isolate the radical faction from all activities," he said.

It's better to keep the doors open for the Khmer Rouge, Surin said. [passage omitted]

UN Urged To Concede Failure in Cambodia

BK0402030393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Feb 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Time for the UN to concede its Khmer peace plan has failed"]

[Text] The United Nations-sponsored Paris Peace Agreement on Cambodia signed in October 1991, appears on the verge of collapse.

On Monday, the Phnom Penh government launched its biggest offensive against the Khmer Rouge in several parts of the country to regain territory the guerrilla group had seized in violation of the peace agreement ceasefire. Military intelligence sources in foreign embassies say it's only a matter of time before the Cambodian People's Armed Forces push their way into the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Pailin.

Prime Minister Hun Sen has made it clear to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), that Phnom Penh will not withdraw its troops from the Khmer Rouge headquarters unless the UN peacekeepers create a buffer zone to keep the guerrillas from seizing more territory.

In the meantime the Thai army, fearing intense fighting and shelling in the area, is making hurried plans to evacuate thousands of Thais working in Cambodia and, to prepare for a spillover of the hostilities.

Also there is a strong possibility that recent Cambodian returnees from the refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border could flee back to Thailand because of fears they might be forcibly conscripted by the Phnom Penh government into the Cambodian People's Armed Forces. Untac has confirmed reports that the Phnom Penh government is already doing this to refugees who were recently returned by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from camps in Thailand—as well as forcing others to carry ammunition.

In 1991, optimism in Cambodia was high after the signing of the Paris Peace Agreements. The olive branch of peace was accepted by the four Cambodian warring factions who had been fighting each other for 13 years. In 1992, exactly one year after the signing of the peace accords, the optimism had been replaced by gloom, despair and frustration that the UN peace plan increasingly was looking like it was going to be torn to tatters.

Much of Untac's operations authorized by the UN peace plan has been put on hold since June last year because of the refusal of the Khmer Rouge to disarm its troops in accordance with Phase II of the accords. When voter registration began last October for the May 1993 general election, the guerrilla faction refused to cooperate with Untac and distanced itself further from the Cambodian peace process, saying the United Nations peacekeeping force was unable to guarantee a neutral political environment .

Khmer Rouge officials, in robotic style, repeated basic demands for a say in running the Phnom Penh government and for Untac to rid Cambodia of Vietnamese settlers and soldiers. The peacekeepers have discovered no troops from Vietnam but there are hundreds of thousands of settlers. Stirring up ethnic hatred against them has become the Khmer Rouge's main political rallying point which strikes a chord with ordinary Cambodians.

A UN Security Council resolution passed in November gave the Khmer Rouge until Feb 1 to decide to participate in the elections scheduled between May 23-25, but this has been to no avail. The partitioning of Cambodia now seems inevitable, but certain senior officials like Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans seem to think the Khmer Rouge can still be brought back into the fold of the UN peace plan, and advocate that the door be left wide open to them.

That leopards can change their spots is certainly wishful thinking.

Look at what's happened now by virtue of accommodating the Khmer Rouge. Firstly, the United Nations has given a certain degree of legitimacy to the existence of the guerrilla group by not forcibly disarming its troops and allowing them to take part in the elections. This by itself is a clear contravention of the Paris Peace Agreement. Secondly, Phnom Penh government troops by virtue of the fact that one-third of them have been disarmed and put into UN-controlled cantonments, are virtually sitting ducks for the Khmer Rouge in its bid to seize as much territory as possible in Cambodia.

The offensive by the Pnom Penh government troops was in response to the overwhelming fear, thanks to Untac, that the Cambodian People's Army could be overrun by Khmer Rouge active forces. Could Untac have prevented the Phnom Penh offensive in any way? Certainly not, if its mandate is restricted to peacekeeping rather than peace-enforcement. Untac's role in Cambodia has been mocked by many. "Why give the UN peacekeepers guns when bamboo sticks would do," is a commonly-heard phrase.

It is of utmost urgency that the mandate of Untac be modified by the UN Security Council to make all parties in the Cambodian conflict respect the terms of the Paris Peace Agreement. That can be done by giving power to UN peacekeepers to penetrate areas under Khmer Rouge control regardless of whether the guerrilla group likes it. It means the military arm of Untac will be obliged to maintain and impose peace by force if necessary.

With time running out for Cambodia, the UN has to swallow its pride and accept the fact that the peace accords agreed upon in October 1991 are not working.

Editorial: UN Fails To Bring Peace to Cambodia

BK0402091593 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 Feb 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The War in Cambodia"]

[Text] The Cambodian conflict escalated to fighting to grab territory when the Hun Sen side sent forces to attack the Khmer Rouge allegedly in order to regain territory seized earlier by the Khmer Rouge. This is the biggest round of fighting since the cease-fire began when the UN peacekeeping force came to Cambodia. Heavy weapons like artillery, mortars, and rockets have been used in the fighting in such important provinces as Battambang, Kompong Som, Preah Vihear, and Siem Reap.

The Khmer Rouge rejection of the election process has created concern about a possible partition of Cambodia and fear that the government formed after the election will not be able to exercise administrative power in the areas controlled by the Khmer Rouge. This air of uncertainty has provoked concern among most people. Therefore, the Hun Sen government's use of force to take territory from the Khmer Rouge is an unavoidable solution to the problem, because eventually a war will take place if the United Nations cannot find a solution to the current impasse.

The resumption of fighting reflects the failure of the United Nations, and particularly the Security Council, which regards the general election as a final act to complete the peace process when in fact the Cambodians are not ready. The United Nations and the countries concerned should meet again quickly to formulate a new plan for solving the Cambodian problem. This is because the current peace process has driven out the Khmer Rouge, and without the Khmer Rouge's cooperation, peace is impossible.

The UN's failure can also be seen from the distrust the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has encountered from not just the Khmer Rouge but also from the Phnom Penh government and Prince Sihanouk as well. They all view UNTAC with skepticism. While UNTAC has to be careful not to become a tool of any Cambodian faction, it is difficult for it to conduct itself in a neutral manner without causing one of the factions to feel that it is being discriminated against. A case in point is the UNTAC charge that the Phnom Penh government was conscripting youths to serve in the fighting to regain territory.

In any event, a solution to the Cambodian problem should be possible by convening a meeting of the four factions to postpone the election and have them form a coalition government, which would be a way to achieve a power compromise. The United Nations can then lay the groundwork for democracy and revive the economy and education. All of this, of course, is up to the four Cambodian factions. It is up to them to decide whether to accept the proposed compromise. No one else will be to blame if they opt to fight. If they choose to fight then the choice of the international community would be to refrain from arming or selling arms to any faction.

Cabinet Approves Humanitarian Aid for Iraq

BK0302071393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved a humanitarian aid to be given to Iraq as urgently requested by Iraqi Government and in support of the United Nations' operation there.

The proposal was put forward by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs following a written request for urgent assistance from the Iraqi Embassy in Bangkok. Blood and saline giving units will be provided for the government of Iraq worth about 500,000 baht. Medical equipment has been in severe shortage in Iraq due to the United Nations' economic sanction.

A sum of 2,000 U.S. dollars will be contributed to the United Nations' humanitarian assistance program in Iraq to be undertaken until 31 March 1993 at an estimated sum of 217 million U.S. dollars in expense. The contribution represents Thailand's goodwill and support for the world organization.

'Severe Punishment' for IPR Violations Considered

BK0302142993 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] At the Commerce Ministry today, Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit met with a U.S. economic counselor delegation comprising John Medeiros, the U.S. embassy economic counselor; and Robert Downes, the embassy first secretary.

After the meeting, the deputy commerce minister reported that they discussed intellectual property rights violations, particularly tape and video copyrights. He informed the U.S. officials that the ad hoc committee of the Intellectual Property Department will be imposing severe punishment for violations.

[Begin Churin recording] If copyright violations are reported to the authorities, our side will take action. The visitors were informed that violations will be punished in an earnest and severe manner, as in the past. There will be internal coordination to make the punishment more severe than called for by law. That is, the punishment may not be the minimum allowed by law, but could be as severe as permissible by law. The government units concerned will be coordinating internally on this matter. [end recording]

Minister Promises Action

BK0402020193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Feb 93 p 19

[Text] Thailand will take action to crack down on video and audio tape piracy and try to impose heavier sentences on violators, Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit said yesterday.

Mr Churin made the comment after a meeting with the US Embassy's Economic Counsellor, John Medeiros who called on him specifically to discuss copyright infringements in Thailand.

Mr Medeiros told BUSINESS POST afterwards: "If the measures announced really result in a reduction of piracy then we would welcome it."

The Americans have been repeatedly assured that the Government will take serious action against piracy.

But despite the commitment, the market share of illicit copies "remains overwhelming," Mr Medeiros said. He suggested that the latest assurance could be one of the firmest yet, although at his meeting, Mr Churin merely "alluded" to administrative measures to stiffen penalties.

Mr Churin said he told the US official the Thai Government would "coordinate" with officials responsible for charging copyright violators, such as the police and prosecutors, in order to make sentences heavier.

A special working group under Commerce Counsellor Suchit Aphiradi appointed to coordinate work against piracy has been working continuously, Mr Churin said.

He said this also confirmed Thailand's response to the Motion Picture Export Association of America (MPEAA) whose representatives met Mr Suchit last month. The Government's intention is to convey to the new US Government that Thailand is taking serious action against piracy, in the hope that Washington will drop Thailand from its "priority foreign country" list of trading partners under threat of sanctions because of intellectual property rights violations.

Following last month's meeting, the MPEAA sent a letter, dated January 26, welcoming assurances that the association's representatives received from Mr Suchit that the Thai Government is working to:

—establish a task force which would initiate action against video pirates as soon as February

—submit to the Parliament in May amendments to strengthen the Copyright Law

—establish a special intellectual property rights section within the Justice Ministry and the Thai court system as soon as February; and

—destroy illegal video tapes seized by the Censor Board police as a deterrent to pirates.

Mr Churin and Mr Medeiros also discussed continuing US complaints about the new patent law.

The Americans, who want tighter protection for pharmaceutical inventions, object to the law's creation of a special committee to examine possible abuse of pharmaceutical patent protection. No such committee exists for other types of patents.

Mr Churin said he explained that this was because medicines were deemed important goods for developing countries such as Thailand and the Government needed to protect the interests of its people.

Medicines tend not to have substitutes, so problems could arise if one drug is expensive, he said.

A Thai delegation will visit the United States to hold further talks on the US complaints before the annual review of the "priority foreign country" list in April. The list is drawn up under Section 301 provisions of US trade law, and Thailand and India are at the top.

Kaset Rotchananin's Political Future Viewed

BK0402014593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Feb 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Kaset must make a break with his past"]

[Text] The truth of the old saying that birds of a feather flock together was borne out yet again last Friday night when several Chat Thai Party bigwigs joined thousands of other people at a grand party hosted by former Air Force commander-in-chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin at his residence in the Air Force compound. This was hardly a surprise. Nor was the statement by party heavyweight Banhan Silpa-archa that ACM Kaset was welcome to join the Chat Thai Party if he so wished.

In fact, the Chat Thai Party developed a close working relationship with ACM Kaset through the Samakkhi Tham Party which was reportedly bankrolled by the air marshal. The two parties forged an alliance and formed the core of the short-lived coalition government under the premiership of Gen Suchinda Khraprayun which collapsed in the aftermath of the May tragedy last year, shattering the dream of some politically-ambitious members of the now defunct National Peacekeeping Council to perpetuate its power well into the distant future. The departure of the unpopular regime also saw the disintegration of the Samakkhi Tham Party and defection of its more promising members.

Whatever his real political aspirations, ACM Kaset's meticulously planned and orchestrated entry into the world of politics after his retirement at the end of September is going about things the right way. This is a much better course of action befitting a retiring top-ranking military officer than pulling another surprise coup d'etat. Or landing himself on the board of a state enterprise with a five-digit salary and corporate perks but with practically nothing to do. Yet, there seems to be a real cause of concern for his political endeavour when one read his recent "confession" about why the February 23, 1991 coup was staged .

ACM Kaset should be commended, at least for having the courage to tell us his version of events behind, during and after the coup. In his exclusive interview with the MANAGER daily last week, he said, in essence, that the coup was pulled off by himself, with the consent of then army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, to save Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, then the supreme commander, from being sacked by then prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan. He claimed that Gen Chatchai was not satisfied with the outspoken remarks against his administration by Gen Sunthon and wanted him replaced by either ACM Kaset or Gen Suchinda who both declined the offer. In his view, the last straw came when Gen Chatchai named Gen Athit Kamlang-ek as deputy defence minister, sparking the fear that Gen Sunthon would be axed. The coup was then staged.

Although ACM Kaset's story was contested in part by Gen Chatchai, his forthright revelation serves to reinforce the lingering doubt which may be left in the minds of many of us for the past two years that the five reasons cited by the NPKC to justify the February 23 coup were just convenient lies. His candid disclosure also provides a rare insight into his state of mind—the kind of mentality which regards the interests of the country as secondary to those of their own, their colleagues, their families or their clan. This is, indeed, archaic thinking, given the renewed democratic process which is taking root and is no longer relevant to this day and age. It also goes against the democratic aspirations of the people in general who have only just recovered from the traumatic events of May and don't want to witness a repeat of the tragedy.

Apparently, it was the same kind of mentality which prompted the Suchinda administration to give the green light for the bloody crackdown of pro-democracy protesters. Unless this mentality is reversed, ACM Kaset and his political allies will find it hard to be accepted by the general Thai public in spite of their strong financial resources. The country simply cannot afford another despotic regime or put up with a leader who does not feel any sense of remorse for innocent people killed or for an economy ruined as a result. Or a leader who puts the national interest behind that of his own, his family or his own clique.

Preview of Talks With Burma on Gas Pipeline

BK0302014993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Feb 93 pp B1, B2

[Text] Top officials of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand [PTT] and PTT Exploration and Production Co [PTTEP] will visit Rangoon on Feburary 4 for talks on the natural gas pipeline project from Martaban to Thailand.

Lun Kritsanakri, PTT's governor, said the officials would meet the Burmese deputy energy minister. Both sides will also discuss the pricing of natural gas.

Wiset Chuphiphan, president of PTTEP, said the trip will be the first meeting between the Burmese Deputy Energy Minister U Tin Tun and PTT. The negotiations so far have been conducted through PTTEP.

Last year, the Rangoon government had allowed Total Co of France to conduct exploration in the gas field. Total has invited PTTEP to become its partner since PTT has a plan to buy the natural gas, to be transported through hundreds of km of pipeline to Thailand, for use in electricity generating plants. The investment in the project is to the tune of several billion dollars.

Informed sources said that a PTT agent from the North has already opened a petrol station in Burma. Another three or four stations are to open later.

The move is part of PTT's strategy initiated by Luen to become an international oil company.

Jean Claude Soligny, general manager of Total Exploration and Production Thailand Co, said his company's manpower and equipment at Martaban are in place and the first well could be drilled next month.

Cooperation on Mekong River Development Viewed

BK0402034993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Feb 93 p 4

[By Anurat Manhipbhan and Suphaphon Kanwerayothin: "Charting a new course"]

[Text] The extreme care with which Thai delegates are treating the talks beginning today was plainly evident when "no comment" was the only comment offered by a senior official less than 48 hours before he was to board the plane for Hanoi.

Vietnam, as host of the significant gathering, has been a little more forthcoming, expressing some optimism in the "new start" on the basis of the consensus reached in recent months on fundamental principles for cooperation.

Senior Thai and Vietnamese officials will be joined by counterparts from two other main riparian states of the Mekong River—Cambodia and Laos—in the two-day working group session continuing through tomorrow.

The four countries' vice ministers of foreign affairs tomorrow afternoon sign a co-operation agreement that provides the legal basis for the new endeavour.

The Thai delegation to the working group session is led by Director-General Phirat Itsarasena of the Foreign Ministry's International Organisations Department. He is backed up by six other officials, including National Energy Authority Director Prathes Suthabutr.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan is signing the agreement on Thailand's behalf.

Mr Surin briefly discussed Mekong co-operation when he met Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai in Hanoi in November while accompanying His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Watchiralongkon on a state visit.

The two deputy foreign ministers then agreed to make respective efforts for a settlement of differences, so that "a certain framework of co-operation" could be delineated and international support mobilised.

In what some sources described as an 11th hour decision, senior officials who met in Kuala Lumpur in December agreed on the work programme for 1993 and initialed the new co-operation agreement before meeting donor countries.

Respective governments in recent weeks have endorsed the agreement being signed tomorrow.

The agreement consists of a joint communique—in which the four countries reaffirm their resolve to continue co-operation for "sustainable utilisation" of the river's resources—and "guidelines" for the working group on the future framework of co-operation.

The first working group session is expected to achieve results that are largely organisational but important nevertheless. For instance, it may decide on the frequency of meetings and rotation of venues.

Subsequent sessions are expected to address questions of institutional structure and membership responsibilities as part of the quest for a future framework for co-operation, a source close to the meeting noted.

The working group is also expected to come up with a new "job description" for the Executive Agent of the Mekong Secretariat, which has shepherded projects through the thick and thin of political and financial difficulties over the past decades.

There has been some change in the role of the Mekong Secretariat in the past several months. But until member states have completed the restructuring task at hand, donors feel there is still a need for an executive agent to spearhead the work of the secretariat.

The Mekong Secretariat is currently overseen by an Officer-in-Charge, as no new executive agent has been appointed since the transfer to New York in mid-1992 of the last incumbent, Chuck Lancaster.

The Officer-in-Charge, Mr Saykham of Laos, will represent the secretariat at the gathering in Hanoi.

Representatives of most, if not all of the 15-plus donor countries and organisations, are expected to witness the signing ceremony and monitor the working group session.

The participation of Cambodia is one significant new element because the country had been out of Mekong projects since the mid-1970s, as the then Khmer Rouge leadership practised self-imposed isolation in its bid to create a new agrarian society.

A formal request for Cambodia's return to the Mekong Committee was put forward in June 1991, four months before a formal peace agreement signed in Paris raised hope—that was thereafter dashed—for the reintegration of a founding member.

Another new element is the change of "facilitator". The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), rather than the Mekong Secretariat, is acting as "go-between" for the member states. The UNDP convened the preparatory meetings in Hong Kong and Malaysia, respectively in October and December, participants noted.

The change has brought UNDP involvement in "constitutional work" but an official stressed that the success of the new arrangement would depend on member governments.

"Governments must get together if the project is to work," he said.

Moves towards the new start were initiated after differences between Hanoi and Bangkok blocked the reintegration of Cambodia that was expected to take place soon after the peace agreement was signed.

An Indochinese source turned down suggestions that the new beginning had been made possible because Hanoi and Bangkok had decided to set aside their differences.

He maintained that the new possibility opened up as a result of a stabilisation of the situation stemming from a decision by all four countries to set aside differences.

Whatever the case, it seems clear that Hanoi is not at this point in favour of addressing the question of expanding membership to include China and Burma.

One source argued that these two countries are not as intimately linked to the river as the four riparian states now involved.

The first 200 kilometres of the river—which rises in the Tangkla mountains of Tibet—pass through China. Hanoi apparently fears that the entry into the scheme of a currently development-active China will lead to fiercer competition for the river's riches.

Burma shares about one per cent of the river that measures more than 2,600 kilometres long in all.

Thailand is for the eventual participation of China and Burma and, as one neutral source pointed out, there is no veto against the question being considered by the working group in time.

Although differences run deep, observers are positively encouraged by recent developments.

The state of relations between senior Thai and Vietnamese officials is "very solid, constructive and nonpolemical," one said.

"Both sides recognise that there are practical reasons to co-operate," he added.

Article Views Tasks Facing Finance Minister

BK0302022893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Feb 93 p B12

[By Surachai Chuphaka]

[Text] When Tharin Nimmanhemin left Siam Commercial Bank to join the Chuan administration as finance minister last year, he could not have imagined that the task of running the country's fiscal and monetary policy would be 1,000 times more demanding than presiding over a commercial bank.

But he has proved his mettle, showing a rare quality and intellect in grasping the essence of fiscal and monetary policy. It will be interesting to listen to what he will say today at the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce. The subject is fiscal and monetary policy under the Chuan Administration. The event to be held at the Dusit Thani Hotel is being organized by the Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Tharin has a strong determination to succeed on the political front. The record shows that he has been fairly successful, even under intense pressure at the height of the Sia Song scandal. He inherited the finance portfolio at a time when Thailand was undergoing profound political changes.

His most challenging task was to prepare the 1993 budget for parliamentary approval. The budget was delayed by the change of two governments: the Suchinda and Anand II administrations.

From the outset, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai emphasized that he would pursue income distribution as the centrepiece of his economic policy. The spectacular economic growth of the past six years has failed to distribute wealth to people living upcountry. So it came as no surprise that the 1993 budget reflected this fundamental aim.

Tharin tried to put together a workable budget proposal that would help improve income distribution through infastructure-led investment, even if it came with a deficit.

The 1993 budget posted a deficit of Bt[baht]25.60 billion, reflecting Tharin's aim to use it as a stimulus to diversify development to the provinces. The economy, though recording a growth rate of 7.5 per cent in 1992, was hampered by a series of political crises that culminated in the May tragedy.

Tharin wanted to increase the investment portion of the budget, which also carries mandatory spending, by raising the spending target to more than 40 per cent. He also attempted to streamline the cumbersome budget withdrawal process, a problem that delayed the spending programmes of government agencies. If these agencies could spend the money allocated to them in a timely manner, the budget would at least reach its spending objectives.

The investment side of the budget was aimed at spreading infrastructure projects upcountry, to form a new base for future growth. This would be accompanied by tax privileges for companies planning to relocate their investments to areas other than Bangkok. It is unclear what this tax proposal will look like, but it should come out soon.

However, observers caution that infrastructure investment and the ensuing private investment, might cause overheating in the rural economy. Experience during the Chatchai boom showed that rural people, even those who owned land, did not benefit from the outrageous land-price appreciation. Farmers sold their land and abandoned their traditional way of life to become industrial labours, but reduced their quality of life.

Neither is the present government certain as to how it will deal with environmental problems if industries relocate their plants upcountry. Without a clear environmental policy, pollution will certainly affect the quality of life in rural areas. Businesses seem unwilling to invest in environment protection.

Tharin has also inherited the problem of a widening gap between national savings and investment. Without enough savings to fund the investment drive, Thailand's future competitiveness stands to be damaged.

A plan has been drawn up to promote different types of long-term savings, such as for mortgages, education and in provident funds. The Finance Ministry is also working out a central provident fund for all civil servants.

However, this savings mobilization will only work in the longer term. In the immediate term, Tharin wants investment to be spread to the provinces as soon as possible. He has set up a committee to find ways of diversifying investment upcountry.

The role necessarily falls on the state controlled financial institutions. The Krung Thai Bank has been commissioned as lead bank in this endeavour. It has recently showed its leadership by reducing the lending rate, forcing other commercial banks to follow suit.

The Government Savings Bank is actively gearing up its plan to mobilize more deposits from small-time savers throughout the country. It plans to lend about 20 per cent of its total credit to the provinces. The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives is also expanding its deposit network to increase its savings base.

The clearest tax policy so far from Tharin is the measure to reduce customs tariffs by 40 per cent on local contents which are used as components for domestic industries. Customs tariffs for office equipment and other capital goods have also been cut to support more private investment.

Although this tax policy is aimed at stimulating investment in the country, it is also an integral part of the Chuan Administration's attempt to comply with the tariff cuts programme under the regional free trade area of Afta [Asean Free Trade Area].

Thailand and other Asean members launched the regional free trade area to facilitate trade flow in the region and to attract foreign investment.

Despite the budget deficit, the government is confident that it will be able to collect more revenue. The Revenue Department has said its value-added tax base has widened to more than 200,000 items, higher than the original estimate. This expansion of the tax base will automatically lead to an increase in government revenue.

Vietnam

Foreign Ministry Rejects U.S. Human Rights 'Allegations'

BK0402104893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] A spokesperson for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry rejected allegations against Vietnam, as expounded in the annual report on human rights in the world made public by the U.S. State Department on 19 January.

Speaking at a regular press conference in Hanoi on Thursday, Mrs. Ho The Lan said Vietnam has a tradition of humanism and respects for human beings and human rights. The Vietnamese people have suffered great losses to gain back the right to live in independence, freedom, and peace for the happiness and plentifulness of the nation and its citizens.

The Vietnamese spokesperson further said though meeting many difficulties, the Vietnamese Government is making great efforts to ensure the implementation of the social, economic, and cultural rights as well as other privileges and political rights of citizens.

She said the annual report of the U.S. State Department failed to speak the truth and exposed allegations and distortions. She said, like many other countries, Vietnam shares the opinion that no nations have the right to decide or impose their views on human rights of other nations.

PRC Border Talks To Resume 14 Feb

BK0402112993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 4 (AFP)—China and Vietnam will resume talks on their disputed land border February 14 in Hanoi, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry announced here Thursday.

The expert-level talks will last through February 17, with the Chinese delegation headed by the director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Asia department, Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Ho The Lan told a regular press briefing.

The resumption of expert-level talks on the Sino-Vietnamese border disputes was decided during the visit to Hanoi two months ago by Chinese Premier Li Peng. The first round was held in September when Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin visited Hanoi.

The communist neighbors have made little visible progress in improving their relations since Li's visit, but they have avoided the public disputes that marred the first year following their normalization in November 1991.

Further on NHAN DAN Interview With Do Muoi

BK0302164093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report on interview with Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, by unidentified NHAN DAN correspondent on the 63d anniversary of the Party; date, place not given—announcer read]

[Text] Asked to further explain his recent statement at the party Central Committee's Third Plenum that economic development is the central objective while party building is the key task for the year 1993, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi said:

In our country, the renovation undertaking initiated and directed by our party has produced encouraging results, creating momentum for us to further accelerate the pace of socioeconomic development in 1993 and the ensuing years. In general, however, the economy has still been very weak and its results meager. Our per capita national income still ranks us among the world's poorest countries. We have had to continue to overcome the consequences of war. Our highly constrained budgetary revenue can only ensure basic expenditures. We do not have capital accumulation from inside the country with which to invest in development. Meanwhile, tough economic competition and challenges are occurring in the region and the world.

Economic construction and development have therefore become more of a pressing and long-term issue and also a central task. We should concentrate efforts to rapidly overcome our weaknesses and deficiences in organization and management, continue to unleash our productive forces, develop to the fullest all of our country's potential, raise the efficiency of production and business, and strive to be thrifty so we can make capital investment for increased production. From this, we should create conditions for strengthening our national defense and security potential, achieve political stability, tackle more satisfactorily various social problems, promptly guide our country through its state of backwardness and poverty, enable it to gradually advance toward socialism, and realize the slogans: Prosperous People, Powerful Country, and Civilized Society.

In order to be able to fulfill its heavy duty as a leader of the political system and of the entire society in the new stage, we should resolutely build a clean and steadfast party. Realities of the country and the complex world situation require that our party urgently study and review various theoretical and practical issues if we are to supplement and perfect our lines, advocacies, and policies aimed at enhancing our solidarity; uniting the minds and actions among the entire party, people, and Army; and continuing to vigorously bring the renovation undertaking to success. The party should renovate its organization and its mode of leadership while it is building a law-governing state of the people, by the people, and for the people. We should reestablish order and discipline under which everyone will live and work according to law.

As for the role and responsibilites of party members, Comrade Do Muoi emphatically said: In order to have enough ability and prestige to gather and motivate all strata of people to overcome difficulties and ordeals in winning successes, party cadres and members should truly be people with an earnest desire to work for the interests of the fatherland and the people. They should improve their abilities and strive to study to improve their overall knowledge; steel themselves qualitatively; carry out the motto of Industry, Thrift, Integrity, Righteousness, Public Dedication, and Disinterestedness; set good examples in all fields of activities and all areas of responsibility as well as in their ordinary lives; and take the lead in the renovation process, and in the fight against waste, against the abuse of special privileges, and against corruption, illegal dealings, and other social evils. They should set good examples for the people in the observance of party policies and lines as well as state law.

The party has no other goal than to achieve independence for the fatherland, freedom for the people, and happiness for the compatriots. Our party has been credited with leading our people to win victories on the battlefield. Developing this glorious tradition, the party should lead the people to win successes in the marketplace and should resolutely substantiate Uncle Ho's earnest desire to see our country independent, our people liberated, and our compatriots with plenty of food and clothing, and education for all.

The party should undertake and develop the tradition of human kindness and the gratitude of the Vietnamese nation and should achieve all-people great unity and international solidarity for a long-lasting and prosperous Vietnamese fatherland, and for peace, friendship, equality, and cooperation among nations in the world. Building the party along the aforementioned line is the main determinant of the success of our national renovation undertaking and our revolutionary cause in the current era.

Asked to further elaborate on the theme of the party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum—namely the Human Being, All for the Human Being and for the Plentiful and Happy Life of the Laboring People—the comrade general secretary emphasized the following points:

1. The substance of the party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum resolution is an integration of the overall strategy mapped out at the seventh party congress with the purpose of fostering and developing the human factor in its capacity as both a driving force and a goal of the cause of national renovation and socialist construction in our country. It is necessary to provide urgent guidance for codifying these resolutions into draft laws in order to present them before the National Assembly for ratification at an early date. The government should promptly promulgate specific policies and lines, and specify implementation plans and the extent of investment for various domains—educational, cultural, public health, population control, family planning, and youth activities—so as to apply in 1993.

2. Just as the entire process of national construction, the need to care for, foster, and develop the human factor is the mandate of the entire people. In any country, even in developed countries, the state usually shoulders part of the people's welfare expenses and leaves the rest for the people to handle alone. We should widely disseminate

the party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum resolutions to various echelons, sectors, mass organizations, social and professional organizations, and to each family. We should transform this idea into an action plan and a movement to attract the participation of a large number of people. The people should carry out, nurture, and develop this movement dynamically and creatively, particularly with regard to those projects that require no or small capital investment.

Finally, the comrade general secretary expressed the hope that with their ardent patriotism and a high sense of responsibility toward the future of the fatherland and people, party committee echelons, the administration, mass organizations, and the people of various strata should develop their dynamism and strive to realize creatively and satisfactorily the cause of education, culture, public health, population planning; train revolutionaries for the future generation; and tackle other social issues related to the human strategy.

Publisher Releases Anniversary Collection of Party Works

BK0402085593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] On the occasion of the 63d founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and to provide a thorough understanding of the resolution of the Seventh Party Central Committee Fourth Plenum, the Su That Publishing House has, in coordination with the Cultural and Art Division under the party Central Committee Culture and Ideology Department, selected various party documents, resolutions, and directives to compile into a book entitled: The CPV Documents on Culture and Arts During the Period From the Sixth to the Seventh Party Congresses.

Party Departments Discuss Implementing Resolutions

BK0302121393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] In Hanoi on 1 February, the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Organization Department, the Ideological and Culture Department, and the Vietnam Journalists Association [VJA] jointly held a seminar to discuss the second phase of implementing the party Central Committee Third Plenum's resolution on renovating and revamping the party's information and propaganda work.

Attending the seminar were Comrades Le Huy Ngo and Nguyen Van An, members of the CPV Central Committee and deputy chiefs of the party Central Committee Organization Department; Ho Anh Dung, deputy chief of the party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department; and Tran Cong Lam, vice chairman of the VJA. Also attending the seminar were representatives of party committees of various blocs, party agencies, newsmen from mass media agencies at the central level and in Hanoi, and leading cadres from party organizations of key municipalities, provinces, and districts.

At the seminar, Comrade Le Huy Ngo briefed the participants on initial results in the implementation of the party Central Committee resolutions by party committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government. He also stressed key measures to implement the party Central Committee Third Plenum's resolution at the second phase in order to improve, consolidate, and stabilize the party organizational structure from the central down to the grassroots levels. It is also necessary for agencies concerned to strengthen the party leadership at various key areas, central organizations, state-run business establishments, and wards. Efforts must be made to perfect the contingent of cadres, especially those working at the central agencies, local party committees, and key units to meet requirements at the present stage while preparing personnel for the party conference of all delegates [hooij nghij dqaij bieeur toanf dqangr] in 1993 and the Eighth CPV Congress in 1995. Efforts must also be made to improve the quality and capability of party members to meet the requirements of the renovation undertaking.

The seminar also heard reports on the results of implementing the party Central Committee Third Plenum's resolution by the Hanoi municipal party committee, the party Central Committee Economic Department, and the Tan Le village party committee of Hung Ha District, Thai Binh Province. Delegates to the seminar also exchanged views on new facilities of the mass media sector and measures to improve the propaganda and information work to serve the party building task.

Spokeswoman Hails Thai Mekong Development Plan

BK0302014193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Feb 93 p 3

[Text] Vietnam yesterday hailed Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's effort to cooperate in developing the Mekong River, its Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

"Vietnam welcomes the statement by the Thai premier that Thailand will sign documents on the Mekong River with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia," said Ho The Lan.

The decision, approved by the Thai Cabinet last week, will help put an end to 18 months of wrangling centered on conflicting claims of upstream and downstream users of the Mekong River. This move is seen here as an effort made by the Chuan government aimed at improving relations between the two countries.

"This is the result of the efforts made by four countries (in the Mekong Committee) over a long period of time which were affirmed at the consultative meeting of the four riparian (riverside) states held in Kuala Lumpur last December," she said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan is expected to arrive here on the day of signing the documents and return to Bangkok the same day.

According to a source at the Foreign Ministry, one of the documents to be signed will be a "Minutes of Agreement on Future Mekong Cooperation".

'Heated Debates' on Foreign Investment at Government Session

BK3001154393 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 30—The government held its regular session in Ho Chi Minh City from January 29-30 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to discuss the government's draft decree on the tasks, authority and responsibilities of the ministries in the field of state management, the draft decree on the implementation of the amendments to the law on foreign investment and the draft plan on the development of agriculture and the countryside till the year 2000 and other important issues.

The session had particularly heated debates on measures to implement the amendments to the Law on Foreign Investment which were adopted at the second session of the Ninth National Assembly. The participants unanimously agreed with the policy to allow Vietnamese private enterprises to enter into investment cooperation with foreign businesses in such fields as allowed by the Law on Business Enterprises.

On the policy towards peasants and the rural areas, the members of the government laid stress on the necessity to change the economic structure in the countryside, encourage the household economy, develop the potentials of all economic sectors, and to promote the allocation of land to peasants on a long-term and stable basis.

The members of the government also agreed that it is necessary to promulgate the ordinance on the execution of prison terms in order to better meet the requirement of re-education of the convicts.

Symposiums Explore Financial System Alternatives

BK0202144893 Hanoi VNA in English 1405 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 2—Two symposiums are currently taking place in Hanoi from Feb. 1-6 within the framework of a project on how the financial system in Vietnam should be developed.

The project undertaken since March 1991 by the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Vietnam with funding from UNDP [UN Development Program] and IMF is aimed to help reform and develop the banking, budgetary and treasury system, improve financial and monetary accountancy, supervise the financial accounts of state-owned enterprises, manage foreign debts, and promote the financial-monetary programme.

Participating in these two symposiums are financial and monetary specialists from UNDP and IMF and managers from the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Vietnam. They concentrate on how to plan budgetary sources, analysing the factors involved in budgetary and target planning, managing the disbursement of budget, improving the system of financial information, the banking system and businesses in a market economy.

Vo Van Kiet Receives ROK Businessmen

BK0302150393 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 3—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received in Ho Chi Minh City this morning Mr. Kim Sang Ha, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Korea, president of the Republic of Korea-Vietnam Commission for Economic Cooperation, and number of Korean businessmen who are in Vietnam to attend the first meeting of the commission.

Mr. Kim expressed his high appreciation of the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in 1992 in light of the Vietnamese Government's policy of renovation. He also said that the Republic of Korea's major companies such as Hyundai, Samsung, Posco, Daewoo and Pohang have prepared about 60 projects valued at 450 million USD [U.S. dollars] to invest in Vietnam.

For his part, the Vietnamese prime minister said that his Korean guests' visit market a new step in the development of the comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Republic of Korea, particularly in the economic and commercial fields. He also briefed his guests of Vietnam's policy for economic renovation and reaffirmed the Vietnamese Government's supportive attitude toward foreign investors. This, he said, includes the signing of agreements on investment insurance and non-double-taxation in order to make it favourable for foreign investors to do business in Vietnam.

Joint-Venture Commercial Bank With ROK Opens

BK0302151193 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 3—Firstvina Bank, a joint venture between Vietnam's Foreign Commercial Bank and South Korea's First Bank, opened in Ho Chi Minh City today.

Firstvina Bank has a prescribed capital of 10 million USD [U.S. dollars], equally owned by both sides. Its duration is 20 years.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, representatives of the Vietnam State Bank and the embassy of the Republic of Korea all noted that Vietnam has become an attractive market for foreign businessmen, including major companies of South Korea. They also said that the establishment of the Firstvina Bank is necessary to help facilitate activities of Korean businesses in Vietnam and will contribute to the development of Vietnam's economy.

Nguyen Manh Cam To Sign ROK Trade Pacts

BK0302121293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam arrived in Seoul on Monday for talks aimed at stepping up economic relations. He and South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok will sign agreements on economic and technical cooperation. The two sides will seek an early conclusion of trade, investment [word indistinct] and avoiding of double taxation pact.

Nguyen Manh Cam paid a courtesy call on Tuesday to President No Tae U and President-elect Kim Yong-sam and toured an industrial site and met with finance, trade, energy, and science technology ministers before leaving on Friday.

Cooperation With Singapore, Malaysia Strengthened

BK0302121493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Singapore and Malaysia have decided to strengthen their financial cooperation with Vietnam. This was affirmed during recent visit to Malaysia and Singapore by the Vietnamese Finance Minister, Mr Ho Te, between 23 and 31 January. During the talks between Singaporean and Malaysian financial ministers, and Mr Ho Te, many agreements were reached for the strengthening of investment cooperation, economic cooperation, and trade payments.

Phan Van Khai Visits Saigon Port

BK0302152393 Hanoi VNA in English 1315 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 3.—Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai on Feb. 1st paid a new year visit to Saigon port where he was briefed on the port activities in 1992 and its plan for 1993.

In 1992 more than 68 billion dong (about 6.8 million dollars) were invested in the renewal of equipment and infrastructural works. Also in 1992, there were 1,010 ship arrivals and depertures with a record loading and unloading volume of more than five million tonnes up by about 20 percent compared with 1991. In January 1993 415,000 tonnes of goods were transported through the port, double the amount in the same month in 1991.

In 1993 the port plans to handle 5.2 million tonnes of cargoes.

Export-Import Activities for 1992 Summarized

BK3101162493 Hanoi VNA in English 1413 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 31—In 1992, the total export-import turnover which was initially planned at 2.45 billion USD [U.S. dollars] increased 2.3 percent over plan and 18 percent compared with 1991. The increases were 80 percent for rice, 37.9 percent for crude oil, 34.6 percent for coal, 23.4 percent for tea, 8.7 percent for rubber, 2.8 percent for marine product, 2.7 percent for coffee, 3.6 percent for tin and 1.9 percent for garment. Meanwhile, compared to 1991, export of vegetables and fruits dropped to 96 percent, ground-nut to 89.3 percent, cinnamon to 76.4 percent, handicraft articles to 68.9 percent and processed meat to 32.1 percent. Imports in 1992 are stimated at 2.38 billion USD, an increase of 4 percent compared with 1991, import of equipment increased 60.3 percent and spare parts 11.9 percent. Particularly, import of materials increased 17.2 percent. Import of consumer goods reached 99.6 percent of the yearly plan and occupied 11.9 percent of the total import value. Most dramatic falls in imports were cotton, fertilizer, insecticide and textiles. According to the weekly trade magazine, in 1991-92, foreign trade activities in the traditional markets namely the former Soviet Union and Western Europe changed to payment by hard currencies, the standard international form of payment. Besides the Vietnamese foreign trade service had to find new markets and partners and export new products with higher quality to meet the demand of new markets and restructure the imports in order to ensure stable supply of materials and consumer goods for the national economy. In 1992, 87 countries established trade relations with Vietnam. Asian countries accounted for 79.4 percent of Vietnam's export value and 77.5 percent of its import value European countries 9.7 and 14.9 percent the commonwealth of independent states 8.6 and 4.9 percent Oceania 1 and 1.3 percent, North America and the Caribbean 0.7 and 1.2 percent. The biggest trade partners of Vietnam at present are Singapore (26.7 percent of exports and 33.7 percent of imports) Japan (20 and 7.8 percent) Hongkong (11.7 and 1.8 percent) and France (4.2 and 5.7 percent).

Premier Issues Complaint Settlement Directive

BK3101091893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] In order to speed up the settlement of the citizens' complaints and denunciations, the prime minister has recently issued a directive urging ministries, agencies at ministry level or those subordinate to the government, the people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to central government, and the people's committees of districts and provincial towns, to improve their work in this regard in the first quarter of 1993.

Offices to receive the people must be properly organized and notices must be displayed outlining reception time and procedures. Reception staff must wear nametags which include their position. Efforts must be made to assign professional and competent staff with a political background and good conduct to handle this task so as to promptly settle the people's complaints and denunciations in accordance with the law.

Australia

Keating, Opposition Chief Trade Accusations

BK0402092693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0627 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By Jack Taylor]

[Text] Sydney, Feb 4 (AFP)—In the run-up to an election in two months Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating was labouring Thursday under a new charge that he may have personally benefited from his government's decisions.

The accusation, made by conservative opposition leader John Hewson late Wednesday, is the latest round of what is shaping as the dirtiest political brawl in recent Australian history.

Keating has not yet announced the election date, although it is expected in late March or early April.

But already the rhetoric on both sides has been so vicious and so personalised that some observers believe it to be aimed at diverting public attention from what should be the main issues—unemployment on one side and taxation on the other.

Hewson has refused to apologise for his charge, which relates to a multi-million dollar pig farm the Prime Minister partly owns and which has been the target of opposition attacks for months.

"There have been decisions taken by his government of which he was a part that may have been to his personal benefit," Hewson said in a televised interview.

The prime minister has already issued a writ against another opposition MP for claiming that a company with which Keating was involved in the piggery had applied for a development allowance that was part of a recent economic initiative.

But Keating, who on Wednesday night described Hewson's claim as "highly defamatory" and "an outrageous slur" refused Thursday to say whether he would sue this time, saying: "Dr. Hewson would be wise to think before he speaks."

Hewson's ethics have also been under sustained attack following publication of a new biography revealing his involvement in a tax minimisation scheme his opponents have labelled "slick and dubious".

Hewson had paid a much lower than usual tax rate—15 cents in the dollar—on earnings of over half a million dollars while he was a consultant and university professor in the 1980s by writing them off against losses on property interests.

Hewson said he had only made legimitate use of tax laws, but described attacks on him over it as "gutter politics" and "character assassination."

The attacks have not been confined to the leaders.

Parliamentary speaker Labor MP Leo McLeay has faced sustained criticism over a 65,000 dollar (44,000 U.S.) settlement for an arm injury sustained when he fell from a bicycle rented from a government department.

A judicial inquiry is to examine the payout, but the opposition wants a separate inquiry on its terms.

A spokesman for Keating said Thursday the prime minister was still "considering his options" over Hewson's comments.

According to political analyst Elaine Thompson of the University of New South Wales, the rhetoric on both sides has been so vicious and so personal that the electorate could be suspicious about the motives of both.

"It's certainly the worst I have ever seen in a federal election," she said.

Keating clearly wanted to divert the focus from unemployment (of 11.3 percent) while Hewson was equally keen to divert attention from his main election policy, a goods and services tax she described as "unsaleable" .

"The attacks from both sides have been so vicious and so trivial that I think it could be seen as deliberately aimed at diverting attention from these other issues and the Australian people are becoming very irritated by it," she said.

The attacks were trivial, she said, because even if true they did not reflect upon leadership qualities or the judgment of either Keating or Hewson.

"But these attacks may not damage Keating so much because he is a well-known street fighter and these tactics are expected from him, whereas John Hewson has presented himself as a 'clean' above politics and he has been doing exactly the same as Keating.

Fiji

Officials Discuss Resumption of Australian Defense Links

BK0402052893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Officials from Australia and Fiji have been holding two days of talks in the Fiji capital, Suva, on the resumption of the defense cooperation program between the two countries.

The defense program was suspended following the 1987 military coups in Fiji, but agreement on its resumption was reached last year between prime ministes, Paul Keating and Sitiveni Rabuka. New Zealand has also resumed defense cooperation with Fiji.

Military Training To Resume

BK0402121993 Hong Kong AFP in English 0908 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Suva, Feb 3 (AFP)—Fiji and Australia ended their first comprehensive defence talks Thursday since the 1987 military coups here, with both sides agreeing on a number of joint assistance programs.

Items agreed on during this week's meeting included the resumption of officer training and courses on engineering, and infantry and naval personnel training.

A joint communique issued after the two-day meeting said the Fiji Military Forces had been offered places at the Australian Joint Services Staff College and at naval college.

The statement said an Australian Army team would come to Fiji in late 1993 to assess further training needs of the Fiji Army.

Australia also agreed to resume surveillance flights of Fiji territorial waters, particularly fishing areas, later this year.

The statement said Australia was prepared to sponsor a visit to Australia by Fiji defence review committee officials to discuss an impending review of Fiji's defence needs.

Defence cooperation between the two countries, severed in 1987 after now-prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka toppled the elected government of Timoci Bavadra, was restored last year.

Rabuka and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating opened dialogue at the South Pacific Forum meeting in Honiara and the relationship was formalised during a visit to Canberra in September, during which the major general met Defence Minister Robert Ray.

Tonga

Police Minister Accuses MP's of Treason

BK0202122093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By Michael Field]

[Text] NUKU'ALOFA, Feb 2 (AFP)—Tonga's pro-democracy politicians were Tuesday accused of treason and trying to create revolution by Police Minister 'Akau'ola.

In a nationwide, 52-minute broadcast on state-owned radio, 'Akau'ola, who is also Tonga's hangman, pointedly reminded people what the penalty was for treason—"the punishment is death or to be sentenced to prison for the rest of their lives," he said.

The speech, which came as the radio ran campaign speeches ahead of Wednesday and Thursday's elections, was a combination of threats and appeals for people not to vote for pro-democracy candidates.

The country's 30 nobles meet Wednesday behind closed doors to elect nine members of the Legislative Assembly, while the 40,000 commoner voters will go to polls Thursday to elect nine members from 55 candidates.

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV appoints a 12 strong cabinet which, with noble support, renders commoner members ineffective.

There has, however, been a growing pro-democracy movement here led by commoner MP 'Akilisi Pohiva.

'Akau'ola said the pro-democracy MPs were "trying to destabilize the country and bring a revolution."

"If somebody tries to bring change by force we need to be alarmed," he said, itemising actions he said were advocating revolution.

These included trying to destabilize Tongan clans, teaching children in schools to "let go of the Tongan way," advocating demonstrations, publishing untruths and opposing the belief in a Christian God.

'Akau'ola said revolution also included sending information abroad which distorted the country's image, stirring up youth, importing arms, advocating civil disobedience and importing foreign doctrines. He asked his listeners "what is treason?" and said it was "anyone who is trying to dethrone the king."

He accused pro-democracy MPs of not living up to their parliamentary oath by not obeying the king.

'Akau'ola recalled a pro-democracy convention held here last November which, he said, the government had been invited but refused to attend. He said a leading Tongan academic, Futa Helu, had told the convention if there was no change here in two to three years there would be a rebellion.

'Akau'ola, who holds his ministerial post by royal appointment and is thus not up for election, also made some extraordinary promises. He said Australian aid officials had designated the Ha'apai group of Tongan islands as a special tourist development project.

He said of plans for the northern islands of Vavau, "it's beyond anything you can imagine... You are going to need flour sacks to carry your money from the bank.

AFP Previews Election

BK0402001693 Hong Kong AFP in English 2125 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Nuku'alofa, Feb 4 (AFP)—Tonga's estimated 45,000 commoner voters were going to polls here Thursday to elect nine representatives to the royal and noble-dominated Legislative Assembly.

Polling booths opened at 9 a.m. (2000 GMT Wednesday) and will close at 4 p.m. (0300 GMT).

There are 55 candidates seeking seats in an election widely seen here as a referendum on whether Tonga should have greater democracy.

Currently, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV appoints 12 members who make up the cabinet, while the 30 nobles elect nine members. Noble elections, held Wednesday, saw four new nobles elected.

Tongan electoral law prohibits the news media from publishing or broadcasting electoral material from 6 p.m. the day before an election.

Tonga's government-owned radio, however, continued Wednesday night to broadcast statements from sitting MP Laki Niu, who opposes the democracy movement.

He claimed pro-democracy leader "Akilisi Pohiva wants to remove the king from the throne and is willing to use bloodshed to achieve his aims."

Pohiva responded in an interview by saying he uses peaceful means of protest allowed in the Constitution.

Tongan radio also rebroadcast statements made by a New Zealand-based Tongan lawyer, Clive Edwards.

"The suggestion of confrontation with the monarchy and of taking power from the king is a proposal for violence and is causing confusion among the people," Edwards said.

"Candidates are making a terrible mistake in campaigning to take power away from King Tupou when there is no clear alternative."

In an interview, Prime Minister Baron Vaea said he did not see the election as a referendum on democracy.

Premier: Australian Aid Policy 'Too Expensive'

BK0302113993 Hong Kong AFP in English 0612 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Nuku'Alofa, Feb 3 (AFP)—Australia's defence aid to Tonga has proven too expensive to the island kingdom and it would have been better if they had given other aid, Prime Minister Baron Vaea said in an interview here Wednesday.

He was also critical of Australia's policy of deporting Tongan overstayers.

Australia has given Tonga two naval patrol boats to protect its exclusive economic zone. It was part of a programme which saw Australian patrol boats given to Western Samoa, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Vaea said Australian aid was too directed at defence and not enough was going towards agriculture, health and education.

"We would like Australia to give more aid for social affairs, and for society, especially in development of agriculture and fisheries," he said.

"We accept (the boats) because it is a policy that Australia is doing the same to our neighbours, Samoa, Fiji, and in the long run that we must get together to defend our region."

He said the patrol boats were not practical for a place like Tonga.

"Its a cost for the patrol boats to go out and do the jobs and we were wondering why the patrolling of the area couldn't have been done in an easier, much cheaper way, for instance an aircraft."

He said each patrol cost the government around 5000 pa'anga (3821 U.S. dollars) in fuel and as it was the government could not keep up with that and their maintanance costs.

"So they just park them along to the north and wait for somebody to call, so they can be less expensive."

He said in a sense the boats were mothballed: "active, but anchoring, waiting for a certain very important call".

He said Tonga was not consulted as such by Australia, but the ministry of defence was.

"Perhaps the ministry of defence knows better which way to do the job... but in my mind personally if it had of been discussed with all the administration we would have done something else."

Tongans are now the major immigration overstayers in Australia and face deportation. Vaea did not welcome this policy.

"We are very unhappy that the people have to come (home), simply because they will disrupt our economy here. People are struggling for employment. Land is very scarce for the farmers and those who will come back will come back on top of these problems.

"We would have like Australia to be more lenient to the people of Tonga."

PRC Pressures Government To Break Taiwan Ties

BK0402061093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0558 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Nuku'alofa, Feb 4 (AFP)—China is putting pressure on Tonga to break off relations with Taiwan, but the tiny island monarchy sees no need to comply, Prime Minister Baron Vaea says.

"There has been pressure from the mainland," Vaea said in an interview [word indistinct]. "It has been friendly. They say 'why and what are you doing with Taiwan, we help you more, our machinery is better, we can develop this and this'."

Vaea acknowledged Tonga's recognition of Taiwan had been controversial, but said his country would not break of diplomatic relations with Taipei having learned it could maintain them while also having a trade commission in Beijing.

In November, Taiwan Foreign Minister Chien Fu came here to present aid cheques worth around 1.7 million U.S. dollars, prompting King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV to say Tonga would "never forget the enormous assistance of the Government of the Republic of China"—or Taiwan.

Beijing's communists drove Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang off the mainland in 1949, and both parties still claim to be the legitimate government of all China.

Beijing demands that all nations with which it has official relations break off ties with Taipei. Tonga is one of the handful of countries that choose to recognise Taiwan rather than China.